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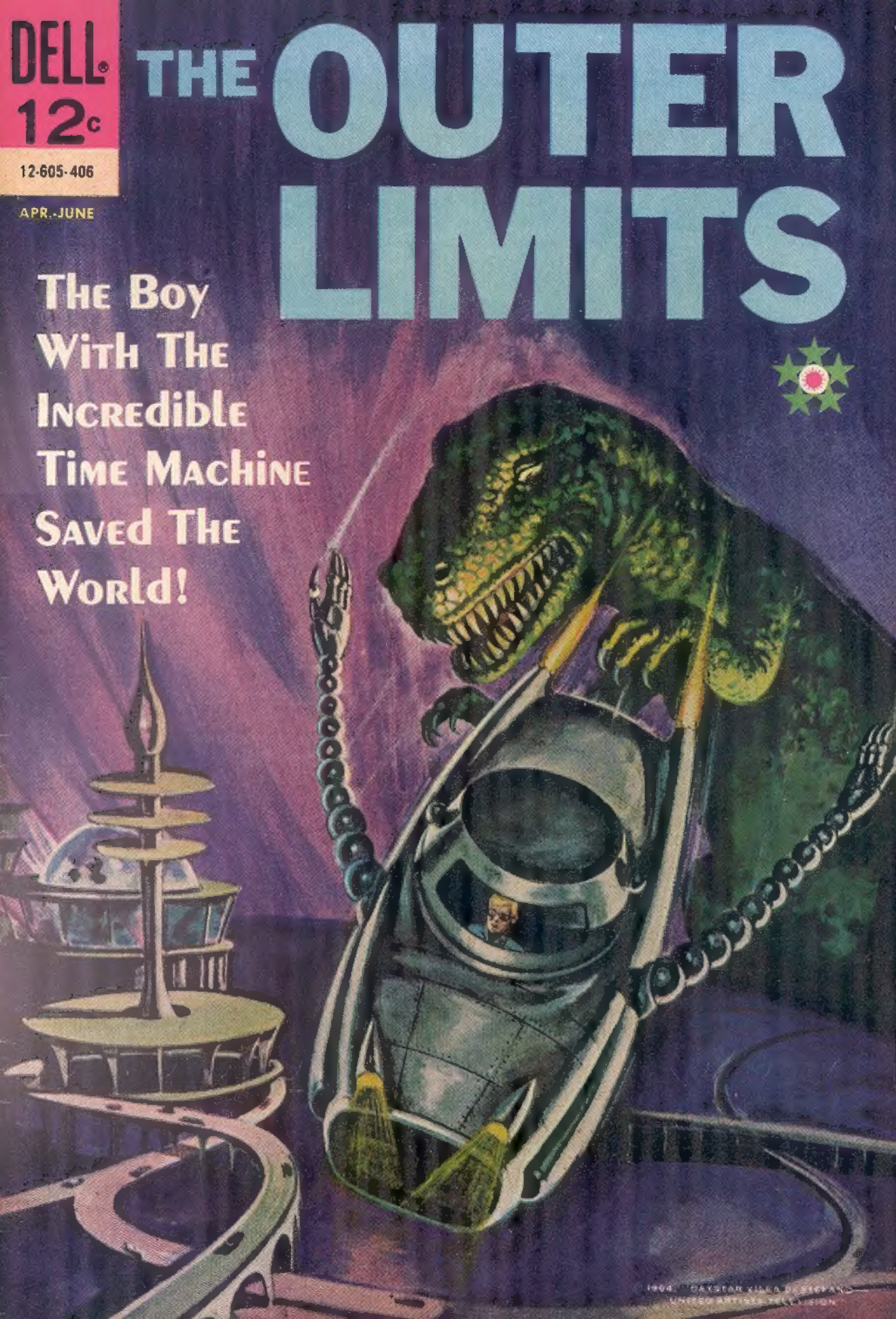
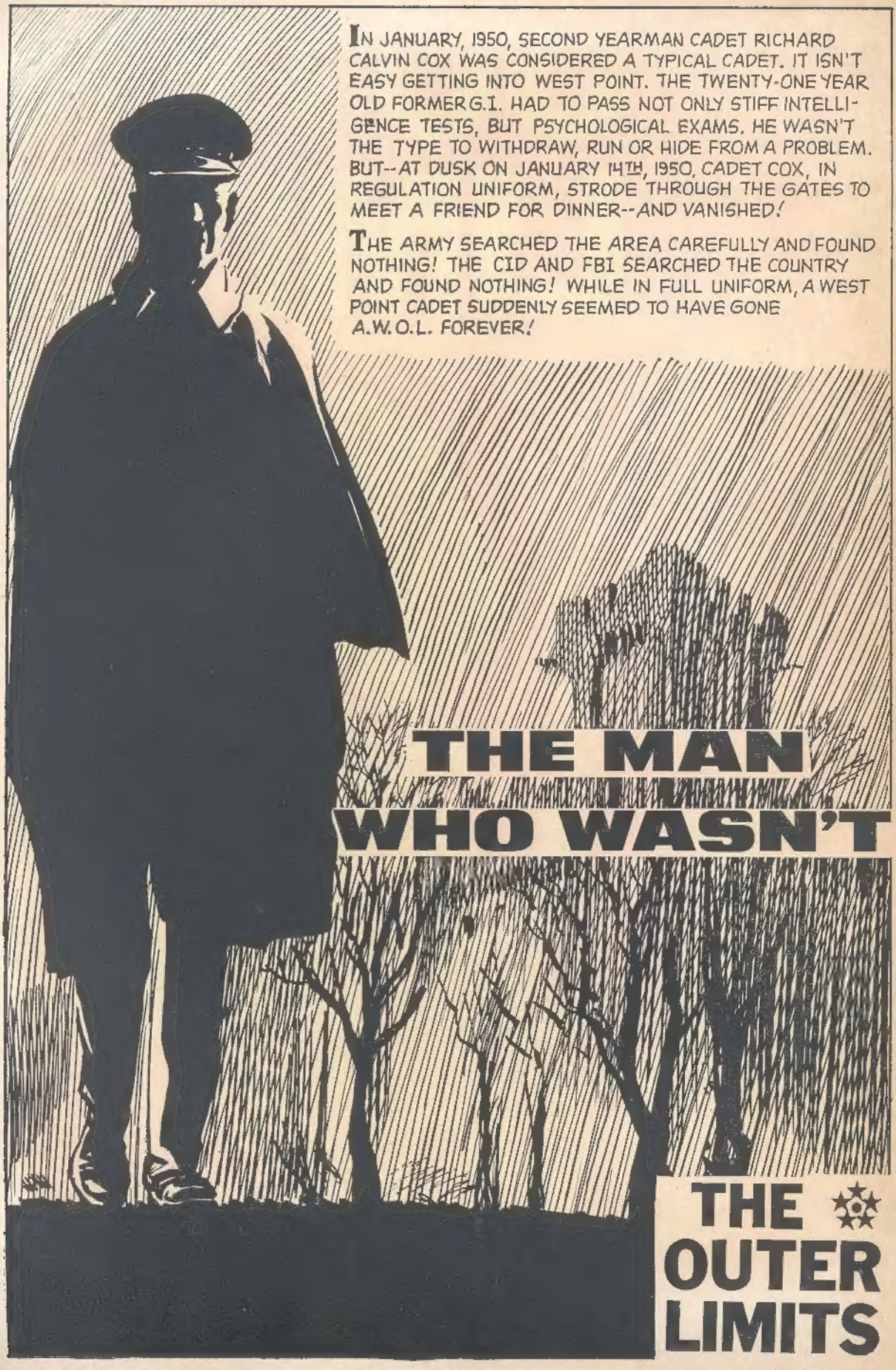
THE OUTER LIMITS

The Boy With The Incredible Time Machine Saved The World!



1964 "DAYSTAR KILLS DEGRAS"
UNITED ARTISTS TELEVISION



IN JANUARY, 1950, SECOND YEARMAN CADET RICHARD CALVIN COX WAS CONSIDERED A TYPICAL CADET. IT ISN'T EASY GETTING INTO WEST POINT. THE TWENTY-ONE YEAR OLD FORMER G.I. HAD TO PASS NOT ONLY STIFF INTELLIGENCE TESTS, BUT PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMS. HE WASN'T THE TYPE TO WITHDRAW, RUN OR HIDE FROM A PROBLEM. BUT--AT DUSK ON JANUARY 14TH, 1950, CADET COX, IN REGULATION UNIFORM, STRODE THROUGH THE GATES TO MEET A FRIEND FOR DINNER--AND VANISHED!

THE ARMY SEARCHED THE AREA CAREFULLY AND FOUND NOTHING! THE CID AND FBI SEARCHED THE COUNTRY AND FOUND NOTHING! WHILE IN FULL UNIFORM, A WEST POINT CADET SUDDENLY SEEMED TO HAVE GONE A.W.O.L. FOREVER!

MOST SUBURBAN GARAGES HAVE GARDEN TOOLS, PAINT, AND THE ACCUMULATED JUNK OF YEARS! BUT IN THE GARAGE WHERE BRAD CORTNER'S FAMILY LET HIM SET UP HIS FANTASTIC ELECTRONICS LAB, A STARTLING DEVICE RESTED ON ITS ELECTRICALLY PULSING CRADLE! A SLEDGE HAMMER WAS SLUNG HIGH TO END THE AMAZING MACHINE--AND THE WORLD WITH IT!
GET BACK, SON! BACK OR YOU'LL GET HURT! THAT CRAZY CONTRAPTION MUST BE DESTROYED!
STOP!! IF YOU DESTROY MY TIME MACHINE, YOU'LL DESTROY MANKIND!
THE OUTER LIMITS
THE BOY WHO SAVED THE WORLD!

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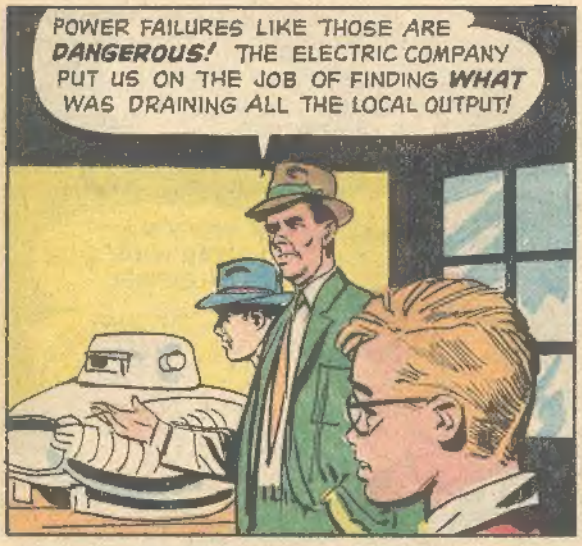
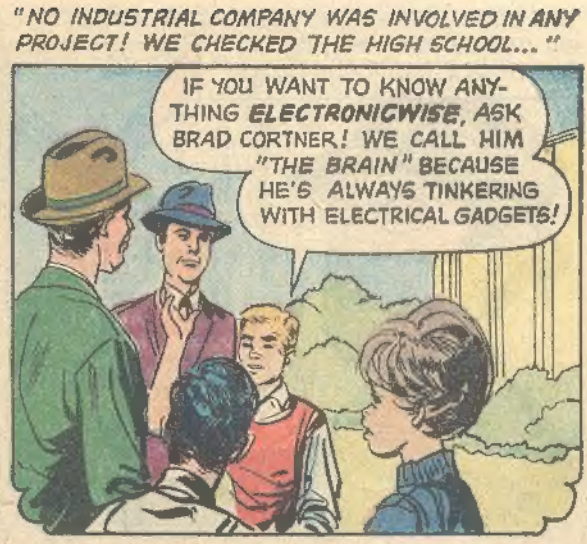
LOOK, SON... I KNOW THIS GADGET OF YOURS TOOK A LOT OF WORK TO PUT TOGETHER AND I RESPECT YOUR ABILITY IN DOING IT-- BUT IT'S A MENACE TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY!

"FOR A WEEK NOW, WE'VE BEEN PLAGUED BY SUDDEN POWER FAILURES! THE ELECTRIC COMPANY WAS AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN WHY OUR WHOLE TOWN WAS BLACKED OUT! NOT A LIGHT WAS LEFT ON IN ANY HOUSE FOR MILES AROUND!"

"TWICE, AT THE HEIGHT OF THE COMMUTER RUSH HOUR, WHEN THE TRAIN WAS COMING INTO OUR ELECTRICAL FEED ZONE, SPARKS FLEW AND THE 7:02 WAS STOPPED DEAD ON THE POWERLESS TRACK..."

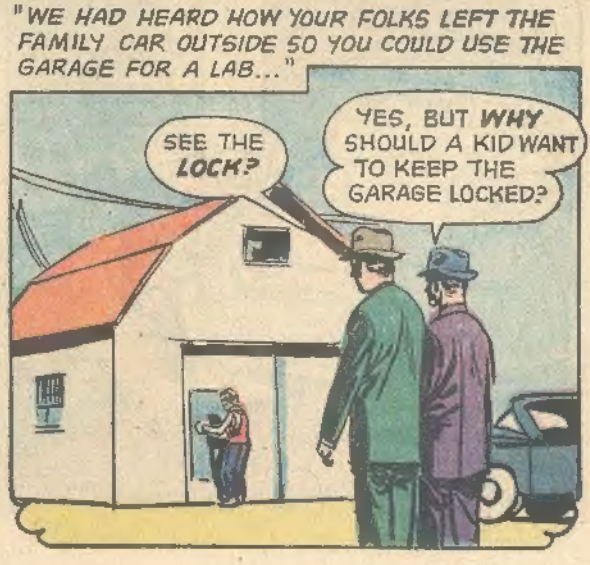
"AT THE RESERVOIR, OUR HYDRO-ELECTRIC PLANT THAT FED THIS WHOLE AREA WAS OUT, STONE COLD! EVERY DIAL IN THE OUTPUT COUNTER REGISTERED A SICKENING ZERO..."


POWER FAILURES LIKE THOSE ARE DANGEROUS! THE ELECTRIC COMPANY PUT US ON THE JOB OF FINDING WHAT WAS DRAINING ALL THE LOCAL OUTPUT!


"NO INDUSTRIAL COMPANY WAS INVOLVED IN ANY PROJECT! WE CHECKED THE HIGH SCHOOL..."
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW ANYTHING ELECTRONICWISE, ASK BRAD CORTNER! WE CALL HIM "THE BRAIN" BECAUSE HE'S ALWAYS TINKERING WITH ELECTRICAL GADGETS!

"RATHER THAN QUESTION YOU AT ONCE, WE WATCHED YOU! NO WONDER THEY CALLED YOU 'THE BRAIN'! YOUR NAME WAS AT THE TOP OF THE HONOR LIST IN SCHOOL AND WHEN OTHERS WERE PLAYING FOOTBALL, YOU WERE LUGGING HOME BOOKS..."
THANKS FOR GETTING IT!
HERE--CATCH!
NOT BAD FOR "THE BRAIN"! BUT NOTICE THE WOBBLY TRAJECTORY!

"YOU TOSSED BACK THE BALL, BUT DIDN'T GET INTO THE GAME! YOU WERE TOO BUSY PLOWING THROUGH BOOKS TO BUCK THE LINE..."


"WE HAD HEARD HOW YOUR FOLKS LEFT THE FAMILY CAR OUTSIDE SO YOU COULD USE THE GARAGE FOR A LAB..."
SEE THE LOCK?
YES, BUT WHY SHOULD A KID WANT TO KEEP THE GARAGE LOCKED?

"WE BEGAN WONDERING JUST WHAT WAS GOING ON INSIDE! THEN WE SPOTTED THE THICK ELECTRICAL CABLING!"

HOLY SMOKE! THE KID'S DRAWING ENOUGH POWER TO RUN GRAND COULEE DAM!

WE HAD FOUND OUT **WHAT** WAS USING ALL THAT CURRENT!... THAT GISMO OF YOURS! NOW, FOR YOUR SAFETY AND THE TOWN'S, IT HAS TO BE **DESTROYED!**

WAIT! FIRST HEAR WHAT I'VE LEARNED--

"TIME TRAVEL HAS ALWAYS EXCITED ME! ELECTRONICS WAS MY SPECIAL FIELD AND I FELT IF I COULD GET INTO THE MAGNO-ELECTRIC ENERGY FIELD THAT SURROUNDS EARTH, I **COULD** TRAVEL BACK AND FORTH IN TIME! LIKE MOST GREAT DISCOVERIES, SOME ACCIDENTAL FUSION OF PARTS SUDDENLY MADE MY INERT MACHINE WORK..."

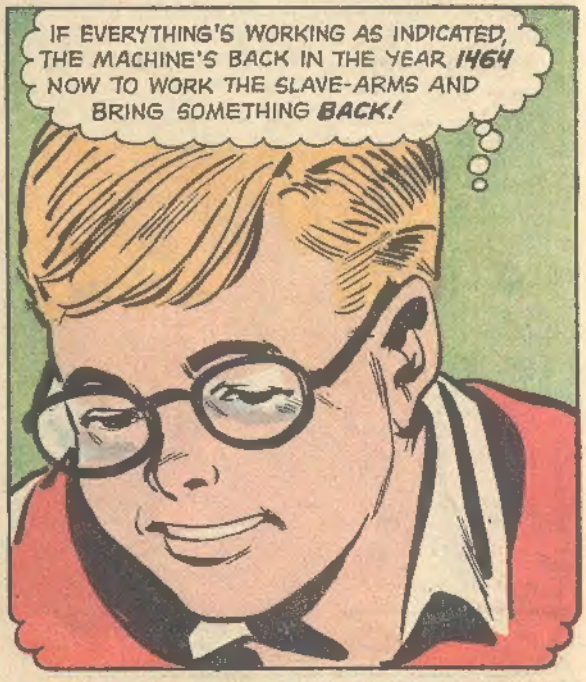
I-IT'S VIBRATING! I--I **DON'T** KNOW WHAT I DID, BUT THE CURRENT IS ON!... THE POLARIZATION WORKS!

"INCREDULOUS, I DARTED FOR THE CONTROL PANEL! I SET THE TIME DROP BACK FOR FIVE HUNDRED YEARS AND SLOWLY FED THE CRADLE JUICE! THE TIME MACHINE BEGAN TO VIBRATE FASTER AND FASTER! THEN, SUDDENLY..."

I-I'M SEEING THINGS! OR RATHER-- I'M SEEING NOTHING! IT-- IT'S **VANISHED!!**

"I STARED, HALF-DOUBTING WHAT I SAW..."

"A QUICK GLANCE AT THE DIALS SHOWED ME THAT ALL SYSTEMS WERE GO! MILLIONS OF KILOWATTS WERE DRIVING THE MACHINE BACK INTO TIME--AND I MUST ADMIT THEY WERE ALSO BEING DRAINED FROM OUR BLACKED OUT TOWN..."


IF EVERYTHING'S WORKING AS INDICATED, THE MACHINE'S BACK IN THE YEAR 1464 NOW TO WORK THE SLAVE-ARMS AND BRING SOMETHING BACK!

"BY WORKING A LEVER, I HAD THE SLAVE-ARMS REACH OUT! CONTACT WAS MADE! THE OBJECT WAS GRASPED, BUT I COULDN'T SEE IT YET! THEN I ORDERED THE MACHINE TO WHIRL THROUGH THE CENTURIES--BACK TO OUR TIMES..."

"THERE, GLEAMING IN THE SLAVE-ARMS, WAS A HELMET! A KNIGHT'S HELMET FROM FIVE CENTURIES IN THE PAST, BUT SEEMINGLY MADE NOT DAYS BEFORE..."

"I HURRIED DOWN TO THE MUSEUM! IT WAS ALMOST CLOSING TIME, BUT I TALKED MY WAY IN AND RUSHED TO THE CURATOR OF ARMOR..."

WHY, THIS IS THE ***FINEST*** EXAMPLE OF MID-FIFTEENTH CENTURY WORK I'VE EVER SEEN! IT LOOKS ***BRAND NEW,*** BUT FROM THE TOOL MARKS AND METAL, I KNOW IT'S A GENUINE ***ANTIQUE!***

WHERE DID YOU FIND IT, SON?

OH, AMONG SOME JUNK IN AN OLD TRUNK! I WAS WONDERING HOW OLD IT WAS! THANKS FOR DATING IT!

"TWO NIGHTS LATER, HAVING CHECKED ALL SYSTEMS, I KNEW I HAD TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP.."

NO ONE'LL MISS ME FOR HALF AN HOUR--BUT HALF AN HOUR THAT'LL TAKE ME BACK ***500,000 YEARS!***

"I GUESS THAT'S WHEN THE TOWN'S SECOND POWER FAILURE OCCURRED! ALL SYSTEMS WERE GO! THE TIME MACHINE WAS ROCKING ON ITS ELECTRICALLY PULSING CRADLE AND I KNEW THAT I WAS HURTLING BACK, FAR BACK INTO THE PAST..."

"WITHIN SECONDS, THE MACHINE STOPPED VIBRATING. I FELT AS IF IT WERE RESTING ON THE GROUND! I TOOK A DEEP BREATH, FEELING EXCITED AND WONDERING WHAT LAY BEYOND THE DOOR OF THE TIME CAPSULE! CAUTIOUSLY, I STEPPED OUT INTO A STRANGE, STARTLINGLY ALIEN WORLD..."

EVERYTHING'S DIFFERENT--THE TREES, THE PLANTS...EVEN THE SMELL OF THE AIR! AND IT'S SO SILENT... SO STILL...

"THEN, I HEARD THE THUNDEROUS APPROACH OF RUNNING HOOFS! I LOOKED ACROSS THE FIELD AND IT SEEMED THAT ONE OF MY HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY BOOKS HAD COME TO LIFE..."

I-IT'S A **HAIRY MAMMOTH!**

"BUT FASCINATION SOON TURNED INTO DEADLY DANGER..."

IF THAT SABRE-TOOTH TIGER SEES ME--

"THEN THE HUNTER WAS HUNTED! RIGHT BEHIND THE PREHISTORIC TIGER CAME A GRUNTING, PANTING BAND OF PRIMITIVE MEN, THEIR FACES ALMOST SUB-HUMAN, BUT THEIR PURPOSE CLEAR...

"BUT AS THE CRUDE SPEARS AND ROCKS HURTLED CLOSE BY THE TIGER, IT LEAPED AWAY WITH DEFIANT BOUNDS..."

"THE CHANCE TO MEET AND SPEAK WITH THESE ANCESTORS OF OURS WAS TOO TEMPTING TO LET SLIP BY! I GUESS I WAS FOOLISH, BUT I CAME OUT OF HIDING..."

"TOO LATE, I REALIZED THAT THEIR PRIMITIVE MINDS COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT I REALLY WAS--A MAN LIKE THEM! TO THEM, I WAS AN INTRUDER, A STRANGER, WHO HAD SPOILED THEIR HUNTING LUCK..."

GET!

AFTER HIM!!

IF I CAN JUST REACH THE TIME MACHINE BEFORE THEY REACH ME!

"I WAS PULLING AWAY FROM THEM EASILY FOR THEIR PRIMITIVE BODIES WERE STILL NOT AS WELL-ADAPTED AS MINE FOR RUNNING, WHEN SUDDENLY..."

OOH!

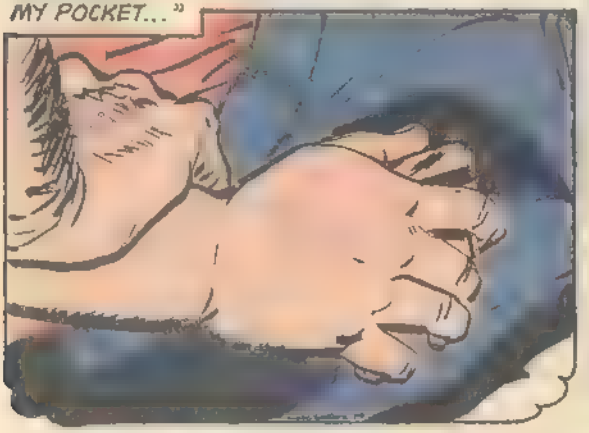
"BEFORE I COULD RISE AND BOLT OFF, POWERFUL, HAIRY HANDS HELD ME...

LET ME GO! I DIDN'T HARM YOU! LET GO!

"BUT WITH GUTTERAL GRUNTS, THEY HAULED ME TO A BIG ROCK AND PINNED ME THERE..."

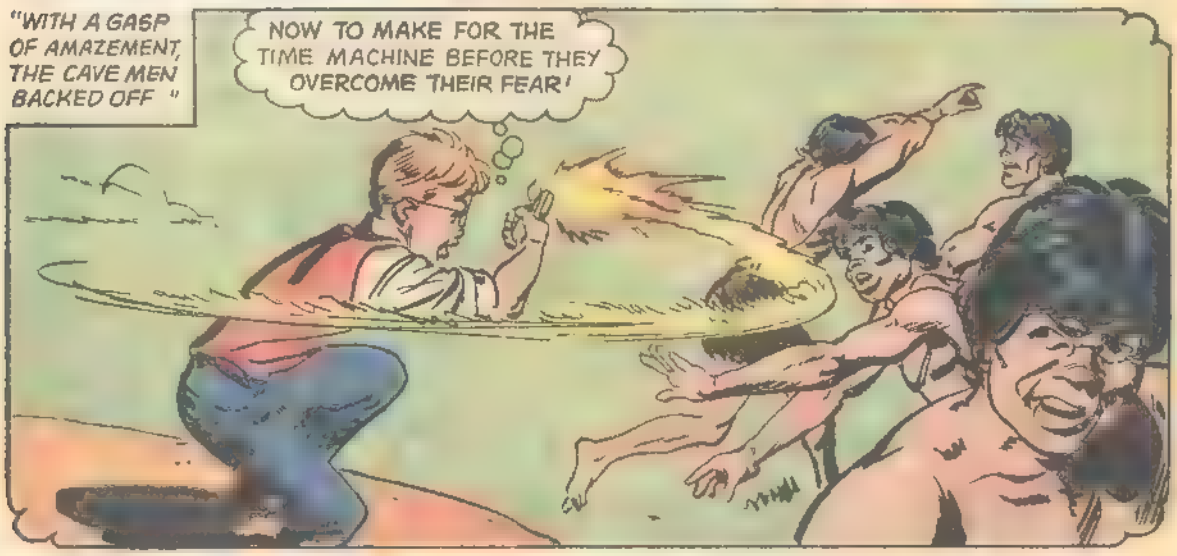
HIM LET TIGER GO! NOW KILL HIM AND THEN KILL TIGER! KILL! KILL!

"DESPERATELY, MY HAND FISHED INTO MY POCKET! I REMEMBER I HAD TAKEN MY DAD'S LIGHTER TO REPAIR FOR HIM AND HADN'T RETURNED IT! IF I COULD JUST GET IT OUT OF MY POCKET..."

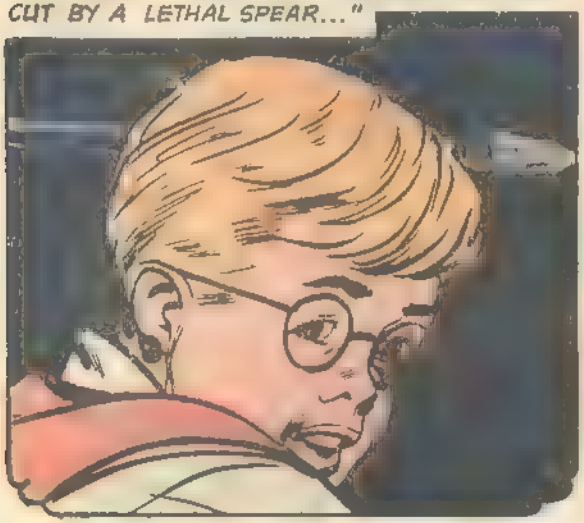


"AS THE MAN WITH THE MENACING CLUB ADVANCED, I FLICKED ON THE LIGHTER..."

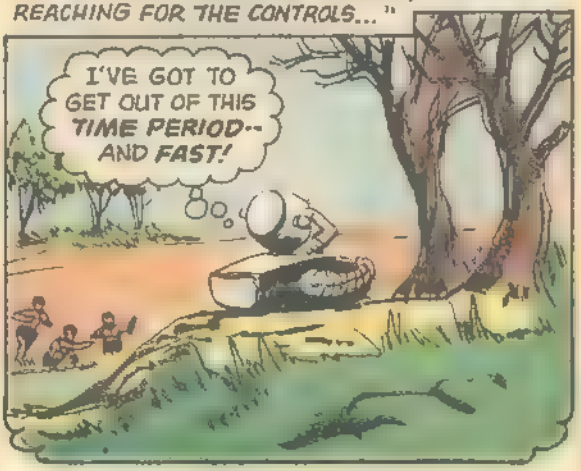
"WITH A GASP OF AMAZEMENT, THE CAVE MEN BACKED OFF"



"AS I RAN, I HEAR THE AIR ABOUT ME BEING CUT BY A LETHAL SPEAR..."



"BY THE TIME I REACHED THE MACHINE, THEIR FEAR WAS GONE AND THE HUNT WAS ON! I DARTED INTO THE CAPSULE, MY HANDS REACHING FOR THE CONTROLS..."



"I RELEASED THE TIME-BRAKE AND SET THE DIAL FOR 1964, PRAYING WITH EACH PASSING SECOND THAT I'D LEAVE THIS DANGEROUS PERIOD OF THE PAST..."

IT'S NOT VIBRATING-- NOT YET!

"THEN, SUDDENLY, THE MACHINE ROCKED AND WHEN IT STOPPED..."

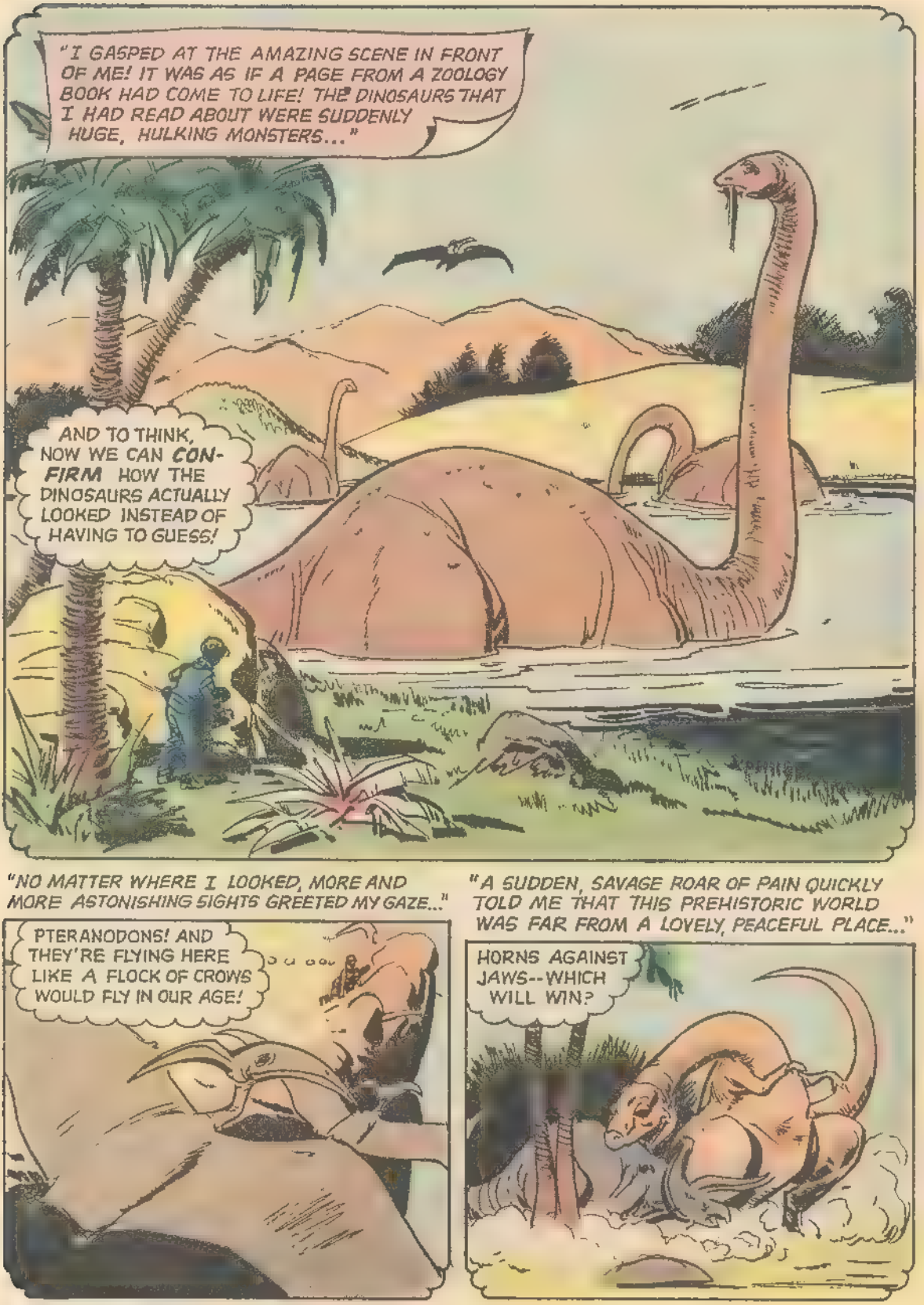
SAFE! SAFE BACK IN GOOD OL' 1964!

WELL, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, SON... AND EVEN IF IT TRUE, THERE'S NO REASON NOT TO DESTROY THIS MACHINE BEFORE IT REALLY DAMAGES OUR TOWN!

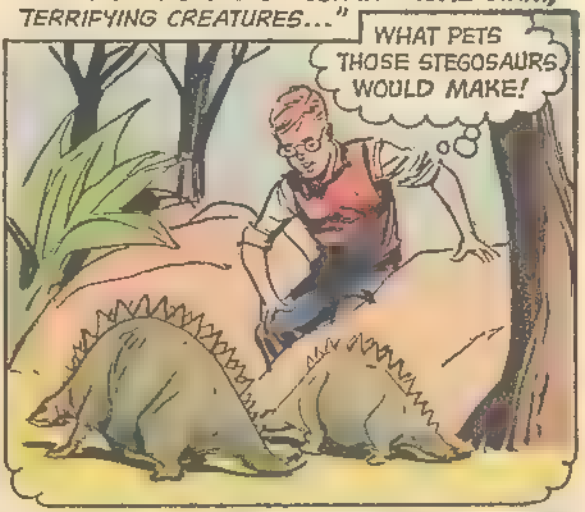
LISTEN! YOU MUST HEAR MY **WHOLE** STORY! THEN YOU'LL REALIZE WHY DESTROYING THE MACHINE MEANS DESTROYING **YOUR** OWN DESCENDANTS!

"I DECIDED TO MAKE ANOTHER TRIP BACK IN TIME! THIS VOYAGE, I REALLY WOULD GO BACK... LONG, LONG BEFORE THE AGE OF MAN! I SET THE TIME DROP-BACK FOR 60,000,000 B.C...."

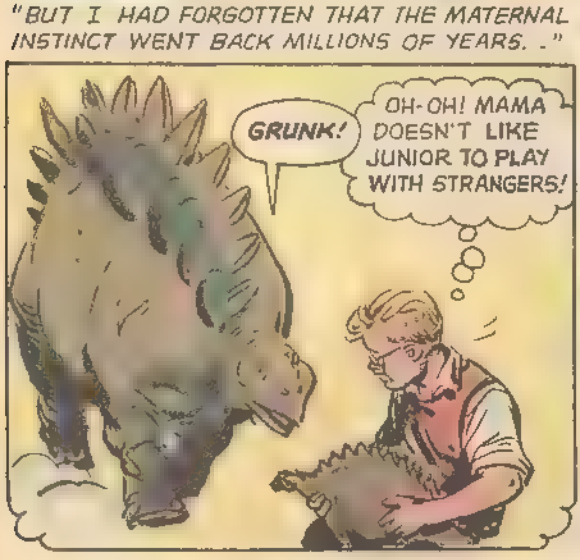
"ONCE AGAIN, IN A MATTER OF SECONDS, THE ELECTRICAL IMPULSES HAD CARRIED ME FROM MY PRESENT DAY WORKSHOP TO A FANTASTIC SETTING..."


"I GASPED AT THE AMAZING SCENE IN FRONT OF ME! IT WAS AS IF A PAGE FROM A ZOOLOGY BOOK HAD COME TO LIFE! THE DINOSAURS THAT I HAD READ ABOUT WERE SUDDENLY HUGE, HULKING MONSTERS..."
AND TO THINK, NOW WE CAN CONFIRM HOW THE DINOSAURS ACTUALLY LOOKED INSTEAD OF HAVING TO GUESS!
"NO MATTER WHERE I LOOKED, MORE AND MORE ASTONISHING SIGHTS GREETED MY GAZE..."
PTERANODONS! AND THEY'RE FLYING HERE LIKE A FLOCK OF CROWS WOULD FLY IN OUR AGE!
"A SUDDEN, SAVAGE ROAR OF PAIN QUICKLY TOLD ME THAT THIS PREHISTORIC WORLD WAS FAR FROM A LOVELY, PEACEFUL PLACE..."
HORNS AGAINST JAWS--WHICH WILL WIN?

"FASCINATED, I WATCHED THE BATTLE--A FIERCE FIGHT THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE SIXTY MILLION YEARS BEFORE MY TIME..."
SO MUCH FOR MY TEACHER'S OPINION! HE SAID THE ALLOSAURUS WOULD'VE WON AGAINST A HORNED DINOSAUR!

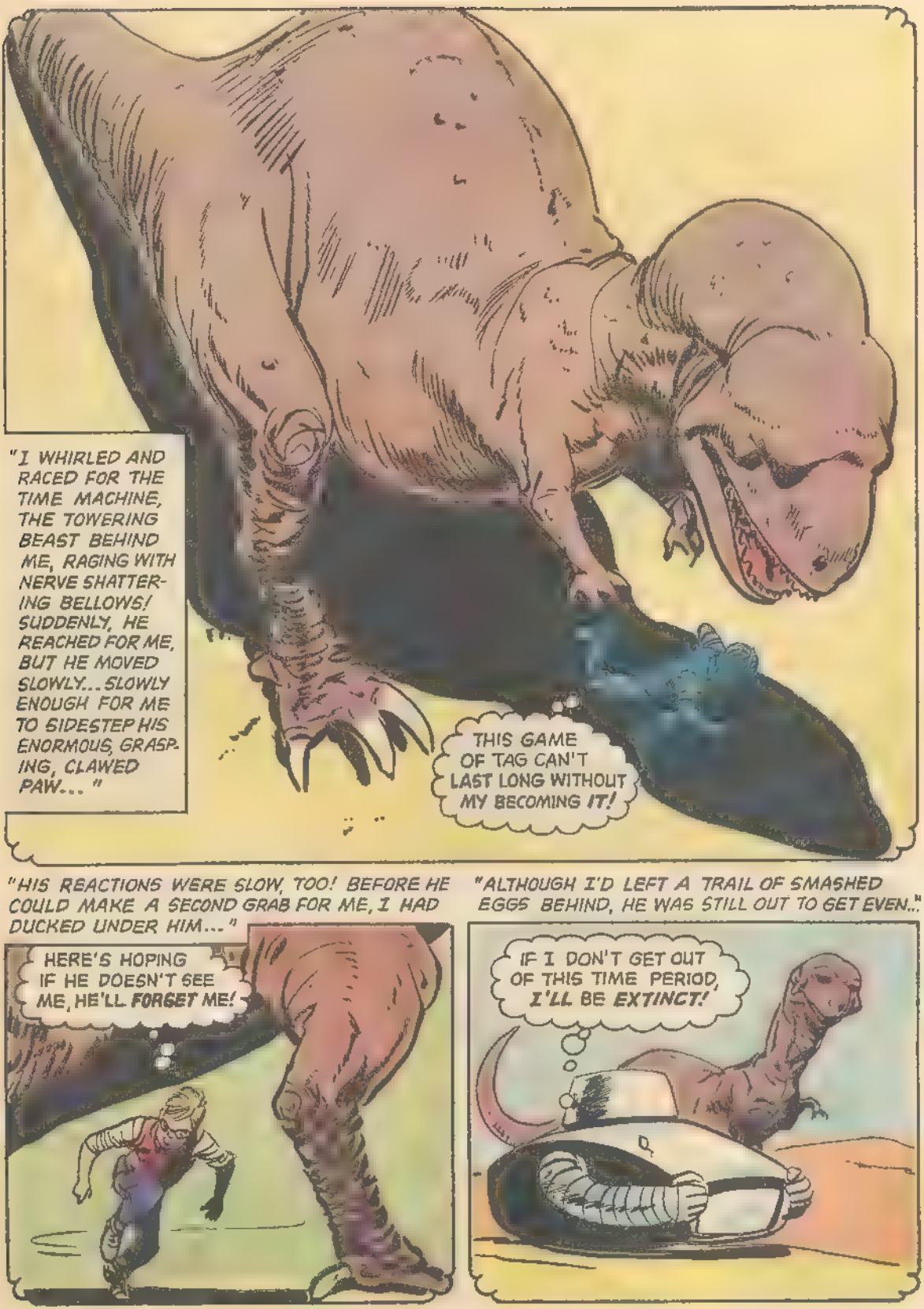

"BUT NOT ALL THE DINOSAURS WERE GIANT, TERRIFYING CREATURES..."
WHAT PETS THOSE STEGOSAURS WOULD MAKE!

WHAT A SHAME I CAN'T FIT ONE INTO THE TIME MACHINE AND BRING HIM BACK! I'D SURE WIN ANY PET SHOW'S CATEGORY OF-- MOST UNUSUAL PET!

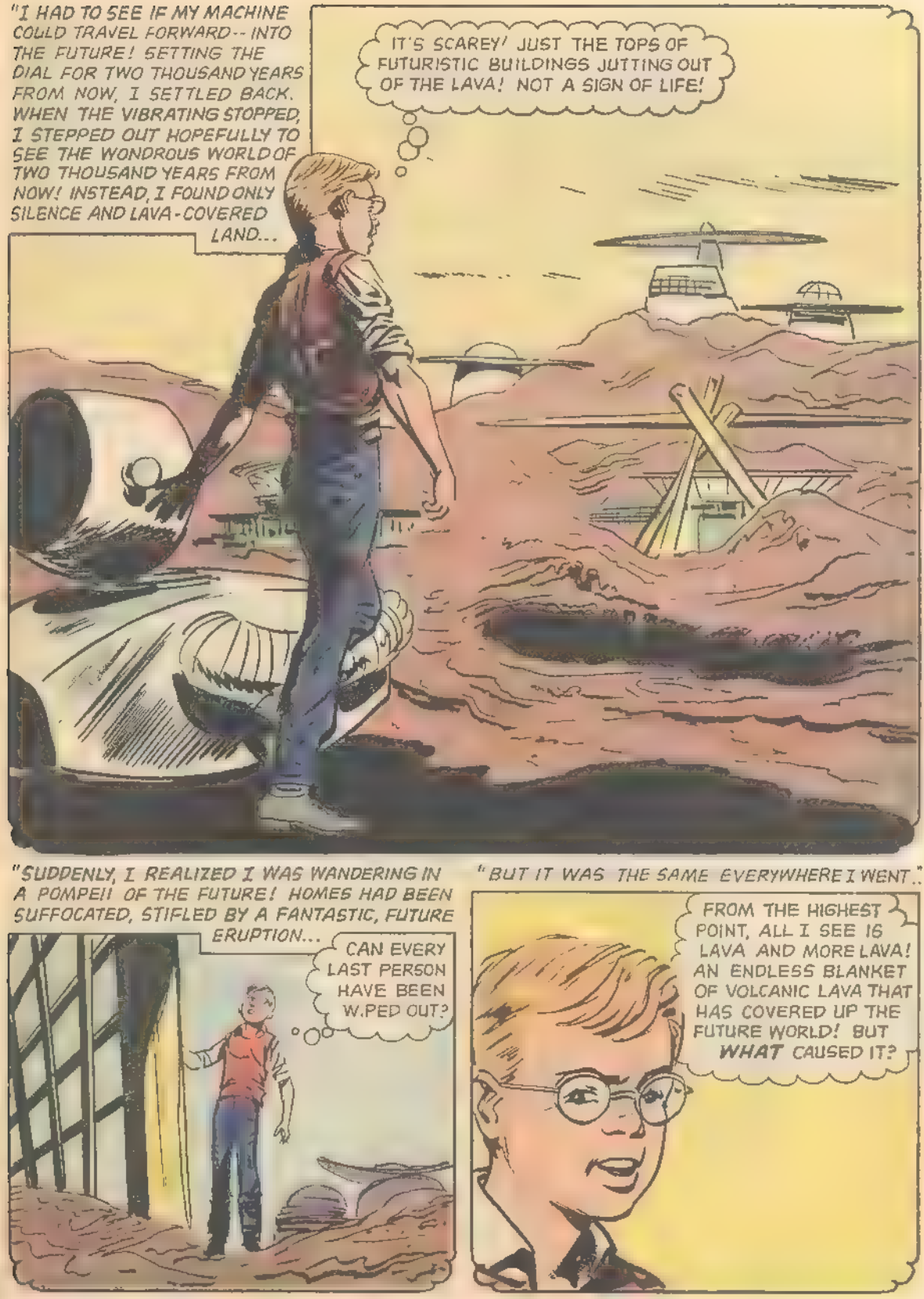

"BUT I HAD FORGOTTEN THAT THE MATERNAL INSTINCT WENT BACK MILLIONS OF YEARS..."
GRUNK!
OH-OH! MAMA DOESN'T LIKE JUNIOR TO PLAY WITH STRANGERS!

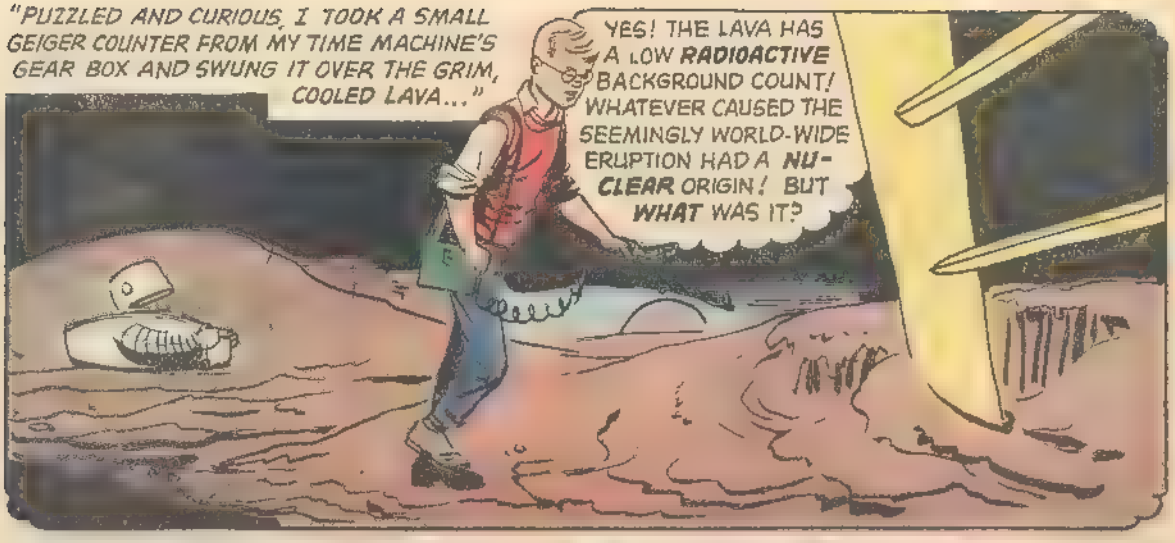
IF I CAN JUST REACH THAT TREE BE-FORE MAMA GETS HER CLAWS ON ME!

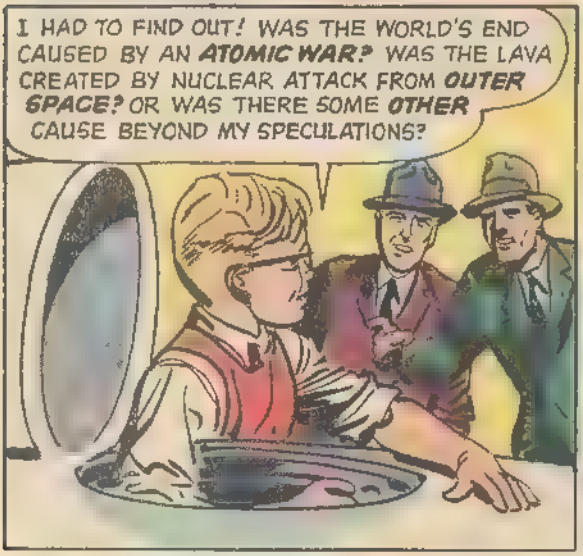
"I SCAMPERED UP THE TREE IN RECORD TIME! AFTER SOME ANGRY GRUNTS AND GROWLS, THE STEGOSAUR TURNED AND LUMBERED OFF..."
BUT I CAN'T LEAVE HERE WITHOUT A SOUVENIR TO PROVE THAT I HAVE BEEN BACK IN THE AGE OF DINOSAURS!
I WONDER WHAT I CAN TAKE BACK? A ROCK...SOME PLANTS?
"THERE, IN FRONT OF ME WAS MY ANSWER!"
DINOSAUR EGGS!... THE PERFECT SOUVENIR! AND, IF I GET BACK IMMEDIATELY, I CAN TRY HATCHING THEM IN A HEATED INCUBATOR!
"BUT MY EGG RAIDING WAS INTERRUPTED BY A WILD, FEROCIOUS BELLOW .. "
OF ALL THE EGGS-- I HAD TO PICK THOSE OF A TYRANNOSAUR!

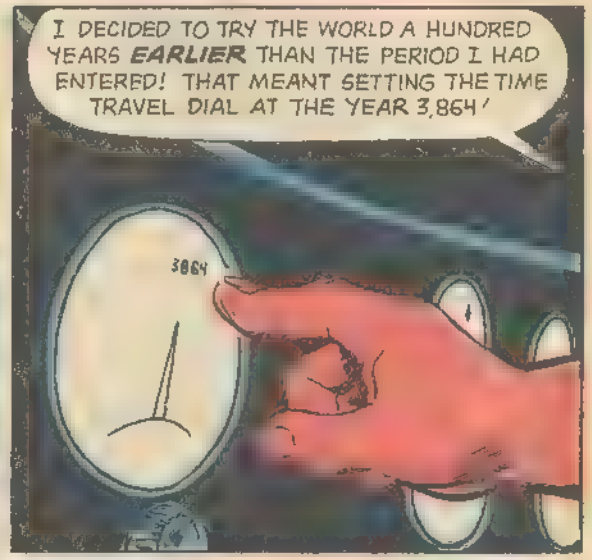

"I WHIRLED AND RACED FOR THE TIME MACHINE, THE TOWERING BEAST BEHIND ME, RAGING WITH NERVE SHATTERING BELLOWS! SUDDENLY, HE REACHED FOR ME, BUT HE MOVED SLOWLY... SLOWLY ENOUGH FOR ME TO SIDESTEP HIS ENORMOUS, GRASPING, CLAWED PAW... "
THIS GAME OF TAG CAN'T LAST LONG WITHOUT MY BECOMING IT!
"HIS REACTIONS WERE SLOW, TOO! BEFORE HE COULD MAKE A SECOND GRAB FOR ME, I HAD DUCKED UNDER HIM... "
HERE'S HOPING IF HE DOESN'T SEE ME, HE'LL FORGET ME!
"ALTHOUGH I'D LEFT A TRAIL OF SMASHED EGGS BEHIND, HE WAS STILL OUT TO GET EVEN..."
IF I DON'T GET OUT OF THIS TIME PERIOD, I'LL BE EXTINCT!

"AS I GRABBED FOR THE CONTROLS, I HEARD A TEARING SOUND! THE CLAWED PAW WAS PRYING OPEN THE DOOR..."
ONE BLOW AND HE'LL CRUSH THE MACHINE AND ME!
"LARGER AND LARGER, THE CLAW LOOMED, AS I STARTED THE TIME TRANSMISSION..."
IF HE WRECKS THE MACHINE BEFORE I CAN LEAVE, I'LL BE TRAPPED HERE FOREVER!
"THEN, SUDDENLY, THE MENACING CLAW VANISHED! IT DIDN'T DRAW BACK, IT SIMPLY DISAPPEARED IN TIME..."
SAFE! BUT I STILL HAVEN'T FULLY EXPLORED THE TIME MACHINE'S POTENTIALITIES!. . CAN IT TRAVEL IN-TO THE FUTURE?
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU HAVE A DINOSAUR EGG AS PROOF!
NO, I HAD TO DROP THEM! BUT YOU MUST BELIEVE ME!
WHETHER WE BELIEVE YOU OR NOT, THE FACT IS THE MACHINE'S DANGEROUS TO US IN THE PRESENT!
DESTROYING IT WOULD BE EVEN MORE DISASTEROUS TO THOSE WHO FOLLOW IN THE FUTURE! I KNOW! ... LISTEN TO THE REST!


"I HAD TO SEE IF MY MACHINE COULD TRAVEL FORWARD -- INTO THE FUTURE! SETTING THE DIAL FOR TWO THOUSAND YEARS FROM NOW, I SETTLED BACK. WHEN THE VIBRATING STOPPED, I STEPPED OUT HOPEFULLY TO SEE THE WONDROUS WORLD OF TWO THOUSAND YEARS FROM NOW! INSTEAD, I FOUND ONLY SILENCE AND LAVA-COVERED LAND...
IT'S SCAREY! JUST THE TOPS OF FUTURISTIC BUILDINGS JUTTING OUT OF THE LAVA! NOT A SIGN OF LIFE!
"SUDDENLY, I REALIZED I WAS WANDERING IN A POMPEII OF THE FUTURE! HOMES HAD BEEN SUFFOCATED, STIFLED BY A FANTASTIC, FUTURE ERUPTION...
CAN EVERY LAST PERSON HAVE BEEN W.PED OUT?
"BUT IT WAS THE SAME EVERYWHERE I WENT."
FROM THE HIGHEST POINT, ALL I SEE IS LAVA AND MORE LAVA! AN ENDLESS BLANKET OF VOLCANIC LAVA THAT HAS COVERED UP THE FUTURE WORLD! BUT WHAT CAUSED IT?


"PUZZLED AND CURIOUS, I TOOK A SMALL GEIGER COUNTER FROM MY TIME MACHINE'S GEAR BOX AND SWUNG IT OVER THE GRIM, COOLED LAVA..."
YES! THE LAVA HAS A LOW RADIOACTIVE BACKGROUND COUNT! WHATEVER CAUSED THE SEEMINGLY WORLD-WIDE ERUPTION HAD A NU-CLEAR ORIGIN! BUT WHAT WAS IT?


I HAD TO FIND OUT! WAS THE WORLD'S END CAUSED BY AN ATOMIC WAR? WAS THE LAVA CREATED BY NUCLEAR ATTACK FROM OUTER SPACE? OR WAS THERE SOME OTHER CAUSE BEYOND MY SPECULATIONS?


I DECIDED TO TRY THE WORLD A HUNDRED YEARS EARLIER THAN THE PERIOD I HAD ENTERED! THAT MEANT SETTING THE TIME TRAVEL DIAL AT THE YEAR 3,864!
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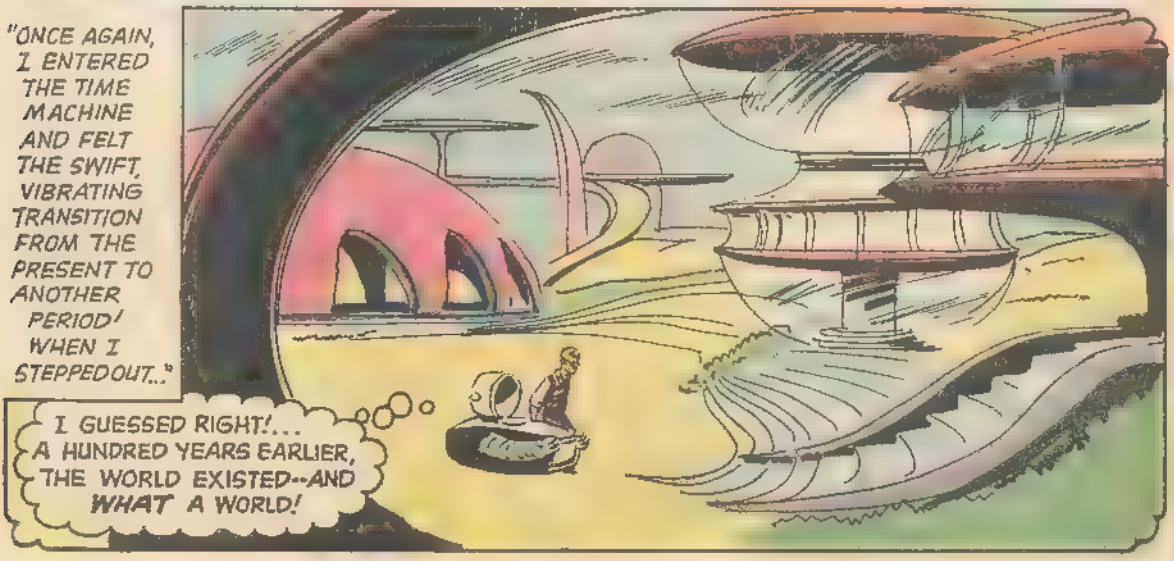
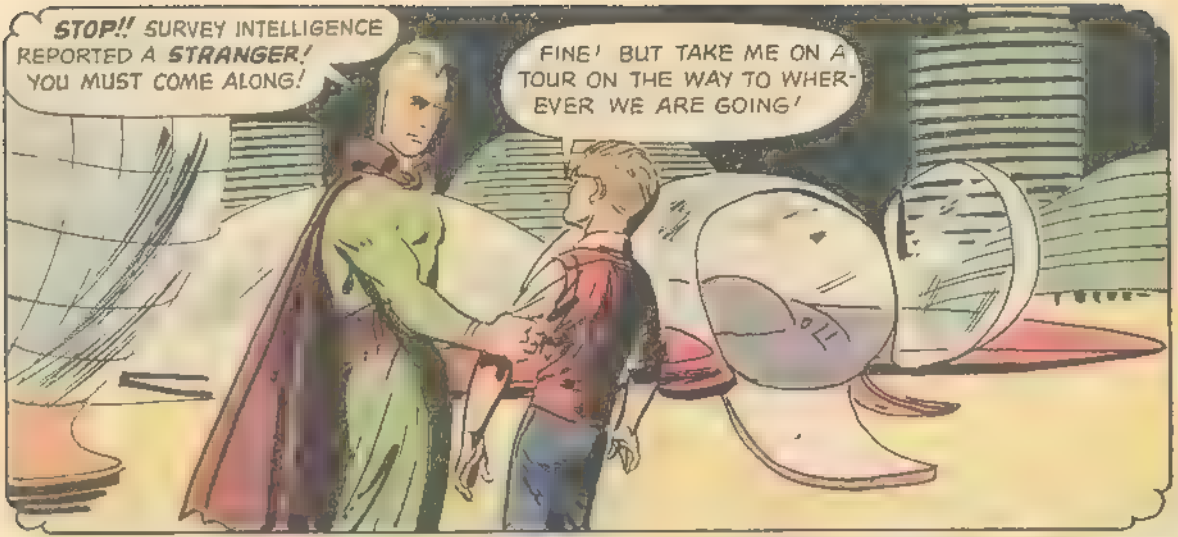
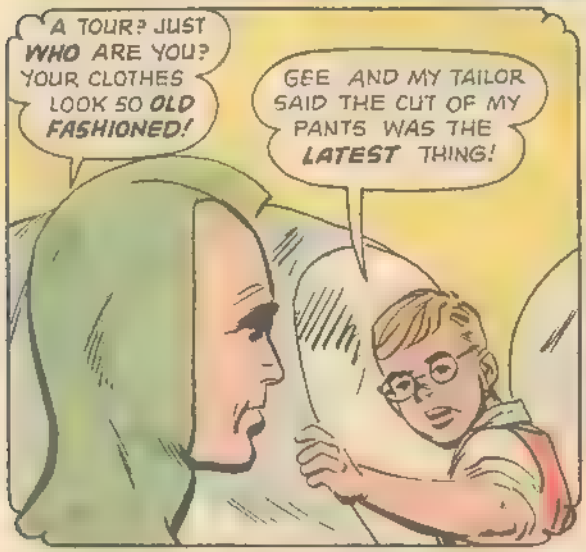
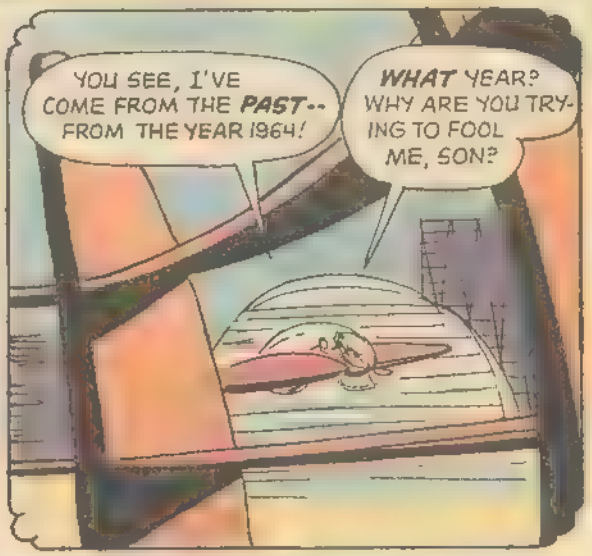

"ONCE AGAIN, I ENTERED THE TIME MACHINE AND FELT THE SWIFT, VIBRATING TRANSITION FROM THE PRESENT TO ANOTHER PERIOD! WHEN I STEPPED OUT..."
I GUESSED RIGHT!... A HUNDRED YEARS EARLIER, THE WORLD EXISTED--AND WHAT A WORLD!

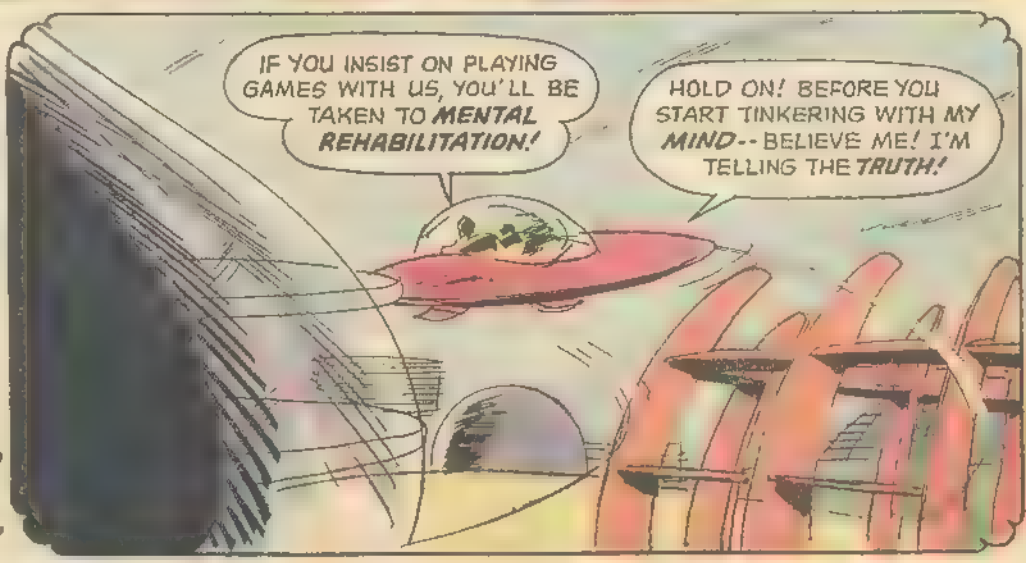
"I STARTED TOWARD THE CITY THAT LAY BEFORE ME LIKE THE SET OF A SCIENCE-FICTION MOVIE! BUT I COULD SEE THAT THE STARTLING HOMES WERE REAL, THE PEOPLE ALIVE..."
SO THIS IS WHAT THE FUTURE WORLD'LL LOOK LIKE! BUT WHAT DOOMS IT TO VANISH A CENTURY LATER?
"SUDDENLY, A WAILING NOISE PIERCED THE AIR! A BEACON BY ME BEGAN FLASHING..."
I-IT MUST BE SOME SORT OF RADAR--AND IT HAS SPOTTED ME!
"INSTANTLY, A HOVER-CAR FLASHED FOR ME."
SHOULD I RUN FOR THE TIME MACHINE? NO! I CAME TO LEARN WHAT HAPPENED IN THE FUTURE... I CAN'T IF I FLEE!


STOP!! SURVEY INTELLIGENCE REPORTED A STRANGER! YOU MUST COME ALONG!
FINE! BUT TAKE ME ON A TOUR ON THE WAY TO WHEREVER WE ARE GOING!



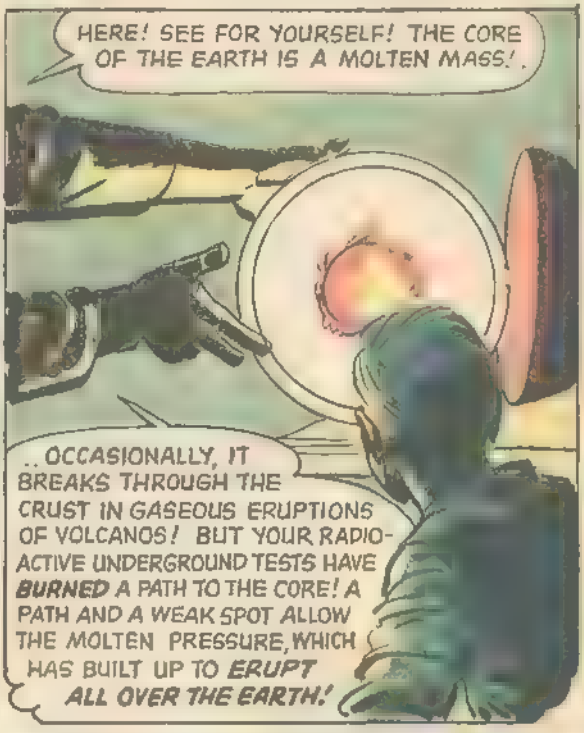


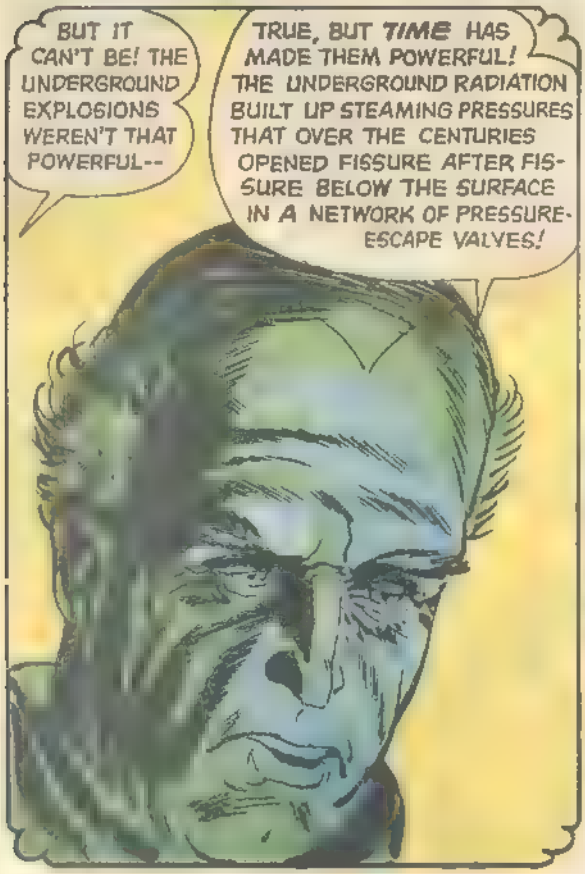
"I DIDN'T REPLY! I WAS TOO BUSY SIGHTSEEING AND WHAT AMAZING SIGHTS THERE WERE TO SEE! THE CITY LAY BELOW OUR CAR THAT SEEMED TO FLOAT ON THE AIR AND MANEUVERED AT THE TOUCH OF A FINGER..."

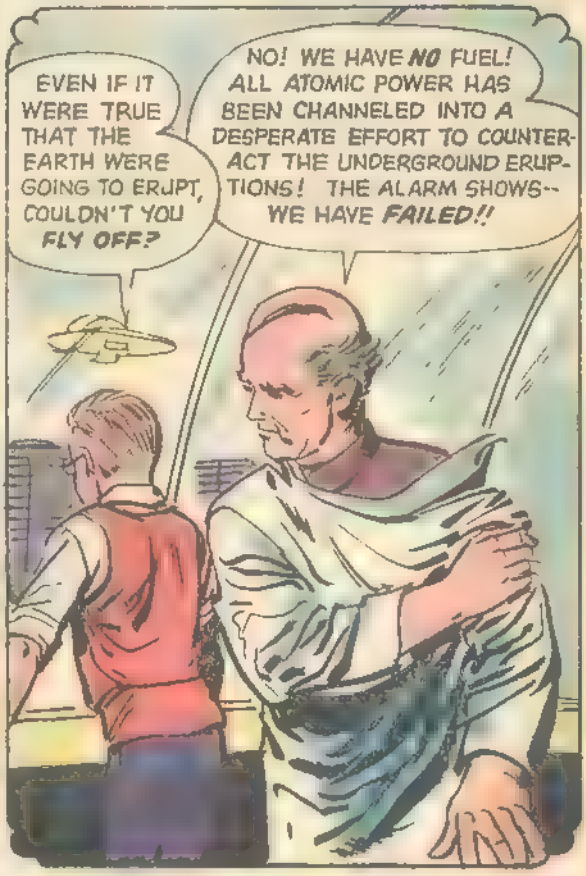

IF YOU INSIST ON PLAYING GAMES WITH US, YOU'LL BE TAKEN TO MENTAL REHABILITATION!
HOLD ON! BEFORE YOU START TINKERING WITH MY MIND-- BELIEVE ME! I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!

"BUT MY PROTESTS WERE TO NO AVAIL! BEFORE I KNEW WHERE I WAS, I WAS HUSTLED INTO A SCIENTIFIC LAB AND HURRIED THROUGH A SERIES OF WEIRD TESTS..."
EXTRAORDINARY! BUT BOTH THE BONE TRANSFIGURATION AND DENTATION AGREE! THIS LAD IS FROM THE TWENTIETH CENTURY!
THEN YOUR DECADE IN HISTORY DOOMED THE WORLD TO EXTINCTION!
M-MINE? HOW?
"BUT BEFORE THEY COULD ANSWER MY QUESTION, AN ALARM RANG WITH DRONING INSISTENCE .."
IT'S HAPPENING! THE END IS HERE!
IT CONFIRMS MY THEORIES-- BUT HOW I WISH THAT THIS TIME, I WERE WRONG!

"HE SAW MY BEWILDERED LOOK AND HURRIED ME OVER TO A MODEL OF OUR EARTH..."


HERE! SEE FOR YOURSELF! THE CORE OF THE EARTH IS A MOLTEN MASS!
..OCCASIONALLY, IT BREAKS THROUGH THE CRUST IN GASEOUS ERUPTIONS OF VOLCANOS! BUT YOUR RADIO-ACTIVE UNDERGROUND TESTS HAVE BURNED A PATH TO THE CORE! A PATH AND A WEAK SPOT ALLOW THE MOLTEN PRESSURE, WHICH HAS BUILT UP TO ERUPT ALL OVER THE EARTH!


BUT IT CAN'T BE! THE UNDERGROUND EXPLOSIONS WEREN'T THAT POWERFUL--
TRUE, BUT TIME HAS MADE THEM POWERFUL! THE UNDERGROUND RADIATION BUILT UP STEAMING PRESSURES THAT OVER THE CENTURIES OPENED FISSURE AFTER FISSURE BELOW THE SURFACE IN A NETWORK OF PRESSURE-ESCAPE VALVES!


EVEN IF IT WERE TRUE THAT THE EARTH WERE GOING TO ERUPT, COULDN'T YOU FLY OFF?
NO! WE HAVE NO FUEL! ALL ATOMIC POWER HAS BEEN CHANNELED INTO A DESPERATE EFFORT TO COUNTER-ACT THE UNDERGROUND ERUPTIONS! THE ALARM SHOWS-- WE HAVE FAILED!!

"THE SCIENTIST REPEATED THE DIRE FACT--ONLY NUCLEAR POWER COULD HAVE TAKEN MANKIND FROM EARTH TO A REFUGE IN SPACE! BUT ALL THAT POWER HAD BEEN DRAINED IN A FUTILE FIGHT AGAINST THE BURSTING CORE OF EARTH! THEN, ON A MONITOR, WE WATCHED A HORRIFYING SPECTACLE..."

THERE GOES THE CAPITAL OF UNITED EUROPE! BLOWN APART!

MAYBE THE EXPLOSION WILL DISSIPATE ITS ENERGY AND NEVER REACH HERE!

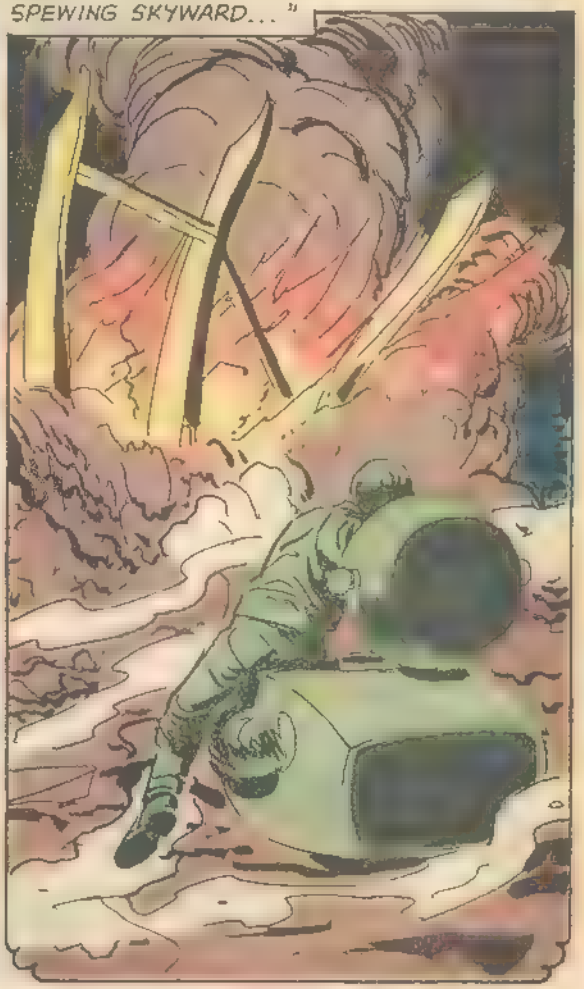
"BUT MY HOPE WAS SHORT-LIVED, AS I WATCHED AN ORIENTAL CAPITAL BEING TORN APART BY THE MOLTEN, EXPLODING CORE OF AN ERUPTING EARTH!"

"SUDDENLY, I REALIZED THAT THERE WAS A WAY OUT OF THIS LAVA-DOOMED WORLD..."

I MUST GET BACK INTO THE MACHINE AND ***OUT*** OF THIS DEADLY WORLD-ENDING TIME PERIOD!

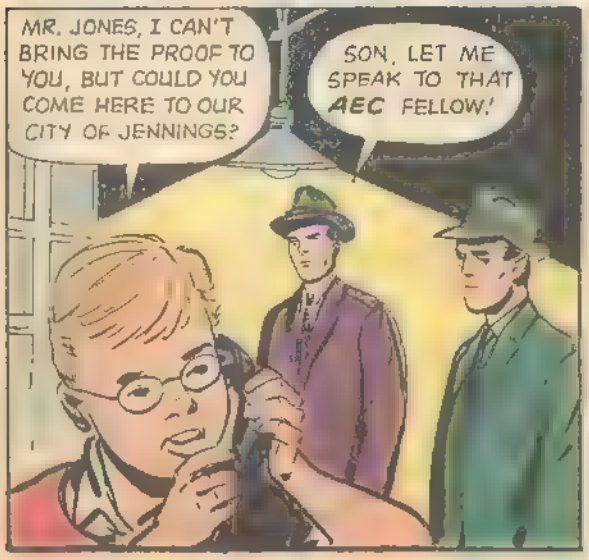
"I STREAKED BY THE MEN AND GAINED THE STREET! BENEATH ME, THE GROUND SHOOK AND BEHIND ME THE WONDERFUL CITY OF MOMENTS AGO BEGAN TO EXPLODE IN A NIGHTMARE OF FURY AND FUMES..."

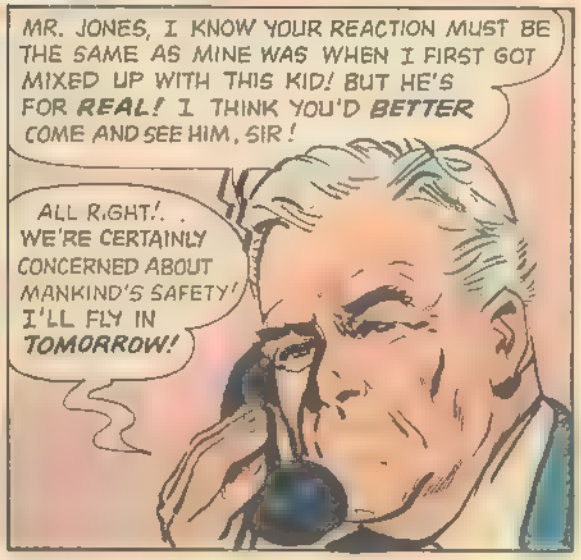
"IT WAS GETTING HARDER AND HARDER TO RUN, FOR THE GROUND WAS TREMBLING MORE AND MORE! AS I REACHED THE MACHINE, THE WHOLE SLOPE BURST APART AND LAVA BEGAN SPEWING SKYWARD..."



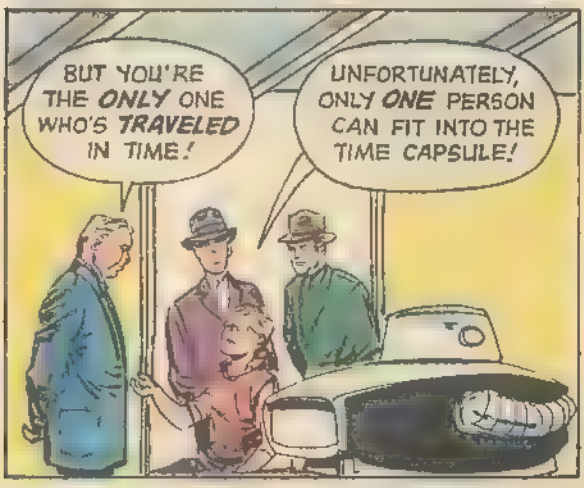
REALIZING THAT IN HIS DESPERATE RACE AGAINST TIME HE HAS ONLY ONE POSSIBLE ALLY, BRAD PUTS THROUGH AN URGENT PERSON-TO-PERSON CALL TO THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION'S DIRECTOR! INSISTING ON SPEAKING ONLY TO THE TOP MAN, THE PERSISTENT YOUTH FINALLY REACHES A.J. JONES!

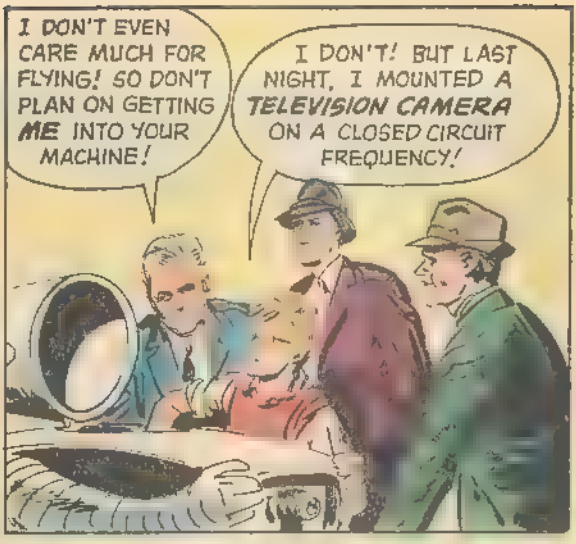
MR. JONES, IF I TOLD YOU THAT LAST YEAR'S UNDERGROUND EXPERIMENTS WERE DOOMING MANKIND'S FUTURE AND THAT I COULD PROVE IT-- WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?
WELL, AS A SCIENTIST, I'D WANT TO SEE YOUR PROOF!



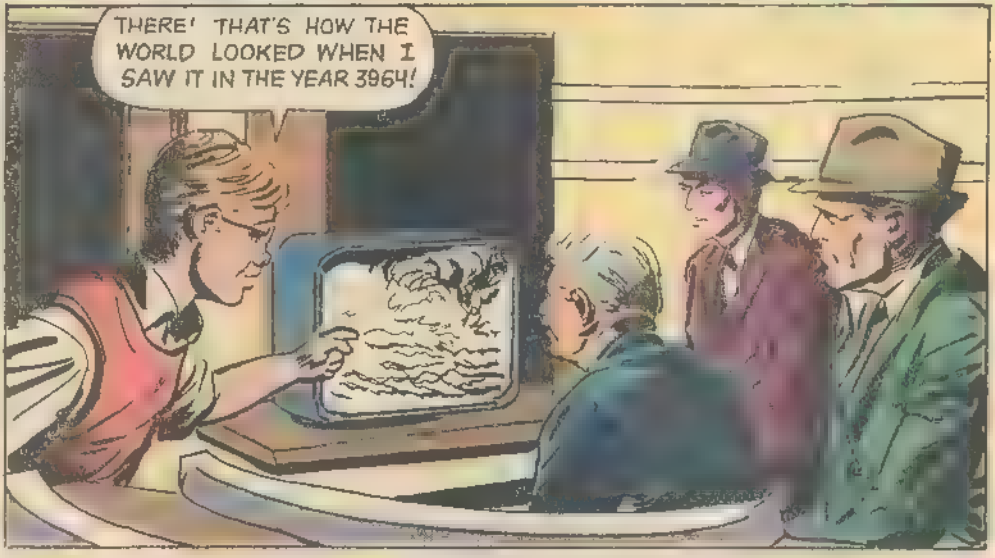

MR. JONES, I KNOW YOUR REACTION MUST BE THE SAME AS MINE WAS WHEN I FIRST GOT MIXED UP WITH THIS KID! BUT HE'S FOR REAL! I THINK YOU'D BETTER COME AND SEE HIM, SIR!
ALL RIGHT!. . WE'RE CERTAINLY CONCERNED ABOUT MANKIND'S SAFETY! I'LL FLY IN TOMORROW!

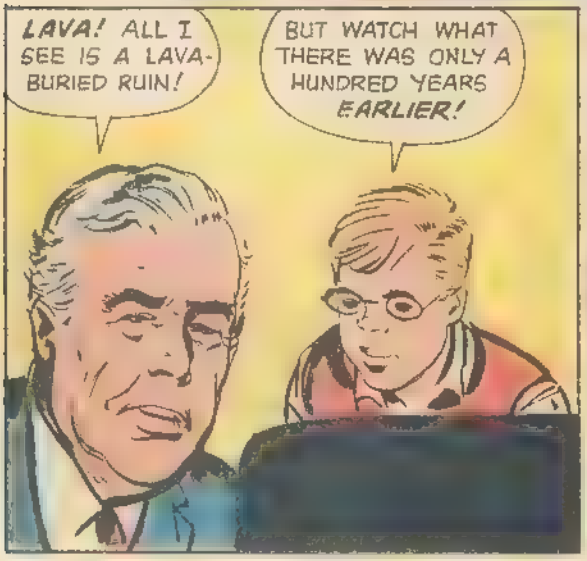
THE NEXT DAY, A PUZZLED, BUT INTRIGUED **AEC** SCIENTIST HEARS BRAD'S ASTOUNDING STORY...



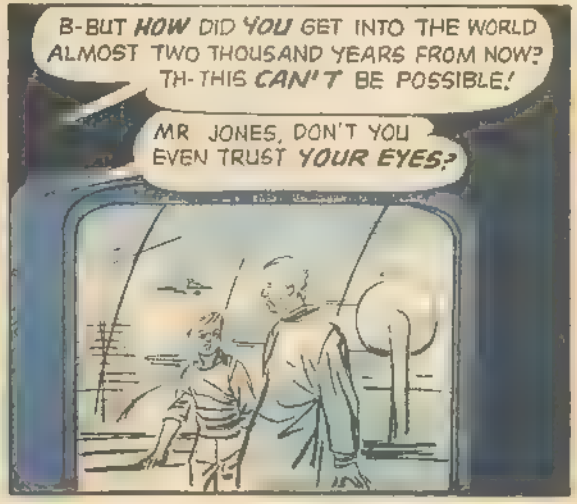

I DON'T EVEN CARE MUCH FOR FLYING! SO DON'T PLAN ON GETTING **ME** INTO YOUR MACHINE!
I DON'T! BUT LAST NIGHT, I MOUNTED A **TELEVISION CAMERA** ON A CLOSED CIRCUIT FREQUENCY!

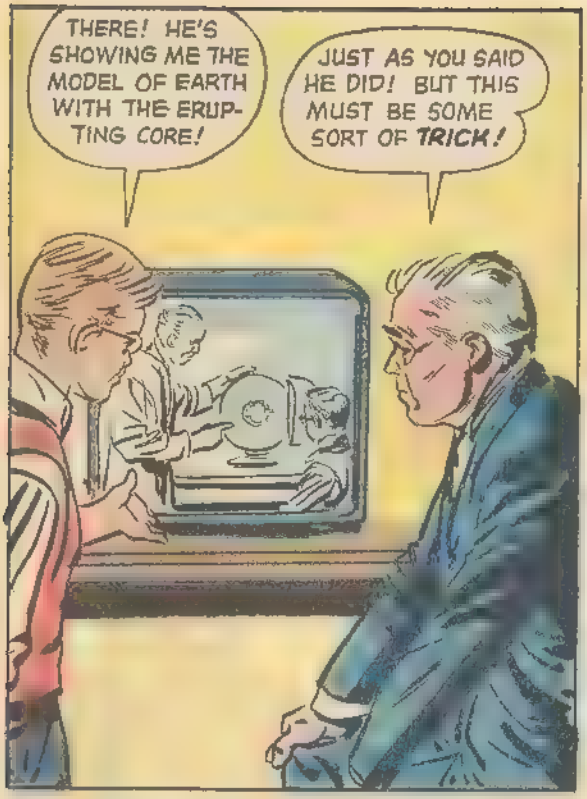
AS THE THREE MEN WATCH WITH ADMIRATION AND DISBELIEF, BRAD SETS THE CONTROLS AND ONCE AGAIN, THE MACHINE VANISHES FROM ITS CRADLE! THEN, SUDDENLY, THE MONITOR SCREEN FLICKERS WITH A DIRE PICTURE...

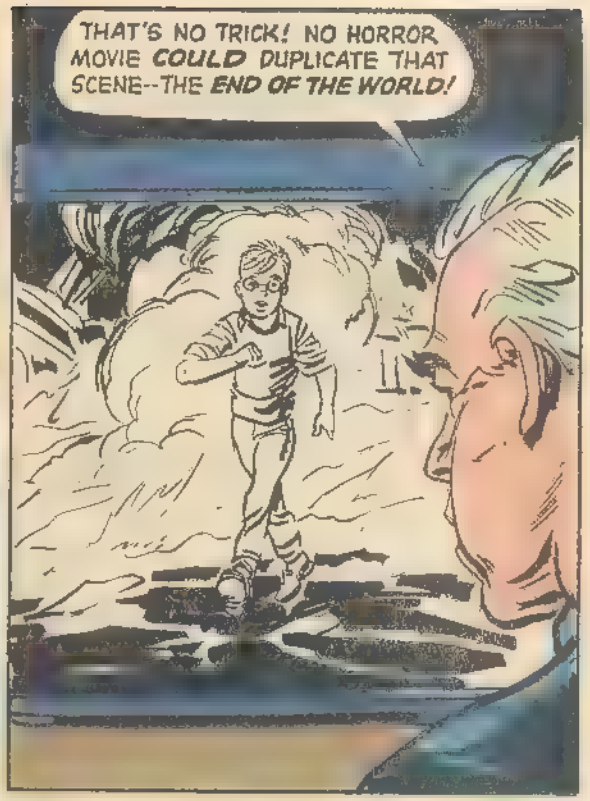




FLICKING THE TIME DROP-BACK TO 3864, A NEW PICTURE SLIDES INTO FOCUS ON THE VIEW SCREEN...

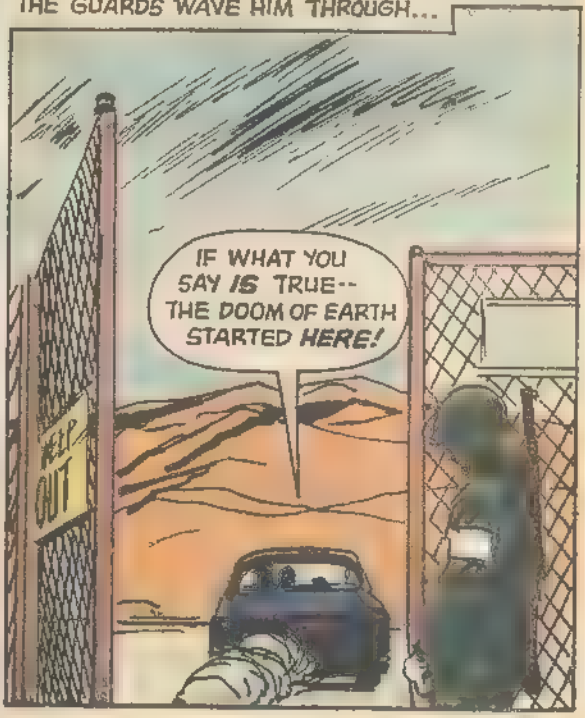

B-BUT **HOW** DID **YOU** GET INTO THE WORLD ALMOST TWO THOUSAND YEARS FROM NOW? TH-THIS **CAN'T** BE POSSIBLE!
MR JONES, DON'T YOU EVEN TRUST **YOUR EYES?**



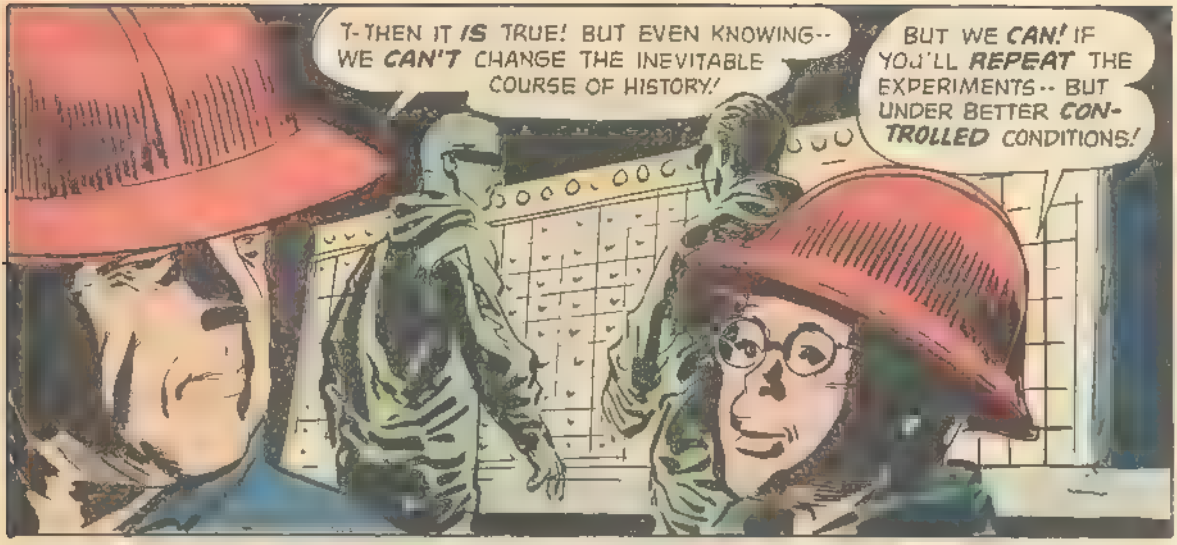


STUNNED, THE AEC SCIENTIST CHECKS OUT THE MONITOR! A KNOWLEDGEABLE GLANCE SUFFICES TO CONVINCE HIM IT IS NO TRICK! A MOMENT LATER, THE TIME MACHINE REAPPEARS...

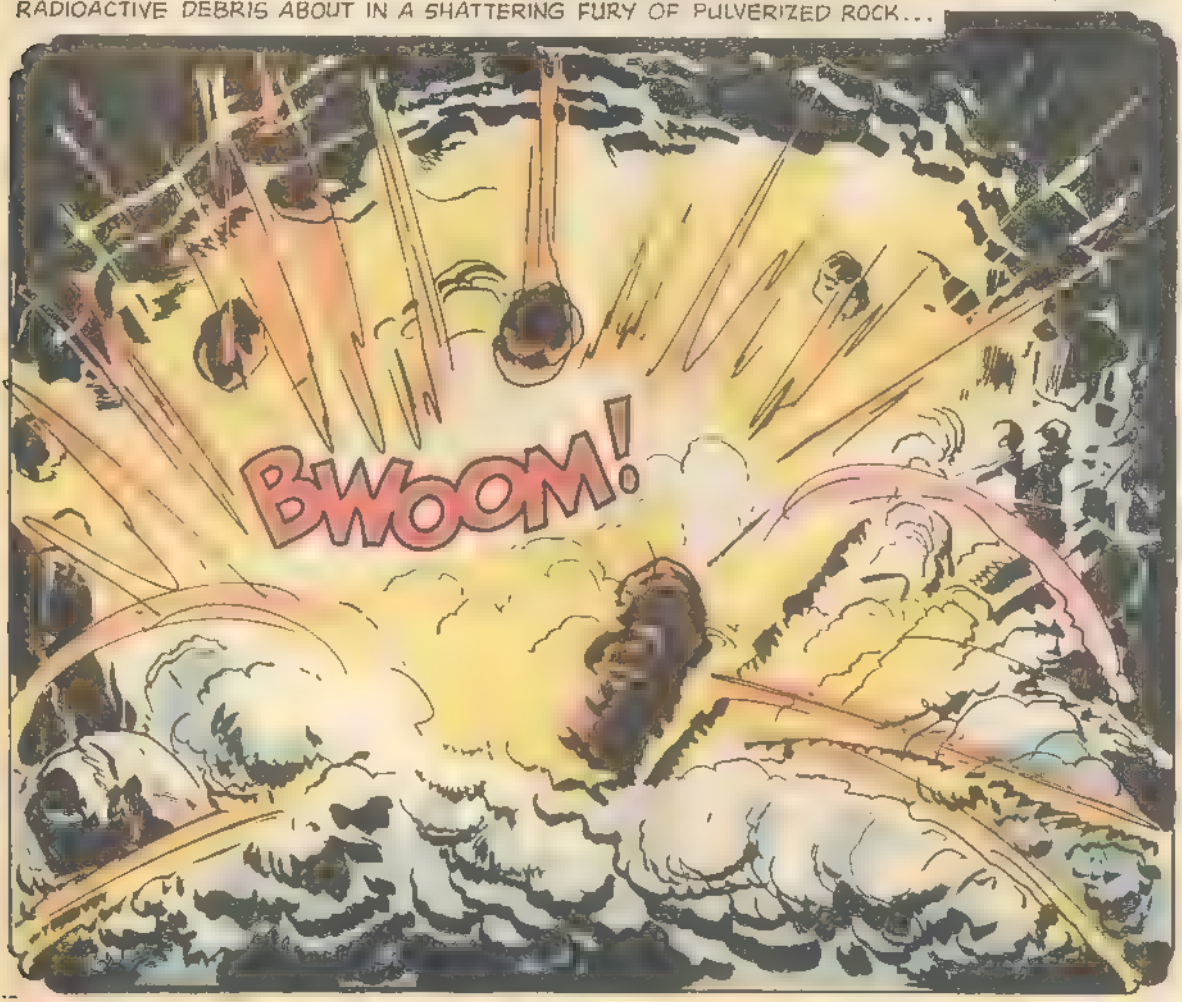
WHISKED OFF IN A GOVERNMENT PLANE, BRAD IS HURRIED TO THE HUGE CAVERN COMPLEX, WHERE THE AEC HAS BEEN MAKING UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS TO DEVELOP PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY! WITH MR. JONES AT HIS SIDE, THE GUARDS WAVE HIM THROUGH...



A SPECIAL ELEVATOR SILENTLY TAKES THEM FAR, FAR BELOW THE EARTH'S SURFACE, INTO THE SPRAWLING DEPTHS OF THE GIANT CAVERN...
THIS IS THE CONTROL LEVEL! WE'LL GET OUR ANSWERS HERE!
GENTLEMEN, I HAVE AN IMPORTANT REQUEST TO MAKE! IN OUR 1963 EXPLOSION SERIES, DID ANY LEAKAGE OCCUR?
LEAKAGE? WE CAN CHECK! BUT CERTAINLY THERE'S NO IMMEDIATE DANGER OR OUR RADIATION DETECTORS WOULD PICK IT UP!
NO, THE DANGER'S TWO THOUSAND YEARS AWAY!
CAREFULLY, THE SKILLED NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS SCAN THEIR RADIATION BACK-GROUND CHARTS, SEARCHING FOR THE SLIGHTEST HINT OF LEAKAGE...
WHY, YES! HERE! FORTY ROENTGENS ARE RECORDED AS ESCAPING--BUT THEY ARE MOVING HARMLESSLY DOWNWARD INTO THE EARTH'S CENTER!
HARMLESS! THAT'S JUST HOW THE DANGER STARTED!


T-THEN IT IS TRUE! BUT EVEN KNOWING-- WE CAN'T CHANGE THE INEVITABLE COURSE OF HISTORY!
BUT WE CAN! IF YOU'LL REPEAT THE EXPERIMENTS-- BUT UNDER BETTER CONTROLLED CONDITIONS!

ONCE AGAIN, THE TIME MACHINE IS PUT TO WORK! THIS TRIP, BRAD RETURNS TO ***ONE MINUTE BEFORE*** THE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE EXPERIMENTS! AND WITH MR JONES' CAREFULLY DETAILED NOTES, HE RESETS THE CONTROLS! THEN, HISTORY REPEATS, THOUGH WITH A TINY BUT MOMENTOUS VARIATION! A TEN KILOTON NUCLEAR DEVICE EXPLODES IN THE BOWELS OF EARTH, HURLING RADIOACTIVE DEBRIS ABOUT IN A SHATTERING FURY OF PULVERIZED ROCK...



ESCAPING FROM THE TUNNEL, THE TIME MACHINE IS CAUGHT IN THE INSTANTANEOUS SHOCK WAVE! THE SHUDDERING POWER OF THE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION POMMELS IT, ROCKING BRAD LIKE A HELPLESS CORK IN A RAGING SEA...

IF WE DON'T GET OUT OF THIS TIME PERIOD QUICKLY, THE MACHINE'LL BE ***SHAKEN TO BITS!***

HE'S ***NOT*** BACK YET! I KNEW IT WAS A MISTAKE! YOU ***CAN'T*** CHANGE HISTORY! THAT BOY MAY WELL HAVE ***VANISHED IN TIME!***

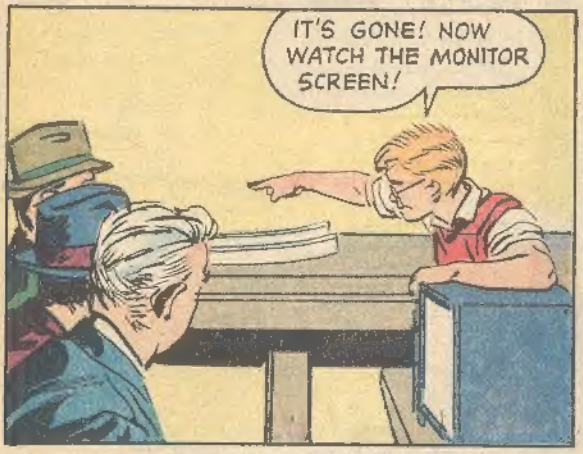
THEN, SUDDENLY, BEFORE THEIR EYES, THE TIME MACHINE MATERIALIZES ON ITS CRADLE! OUT OF THE CAPSULE STEPS A HOPEFUL, YOUNG FIGURE...

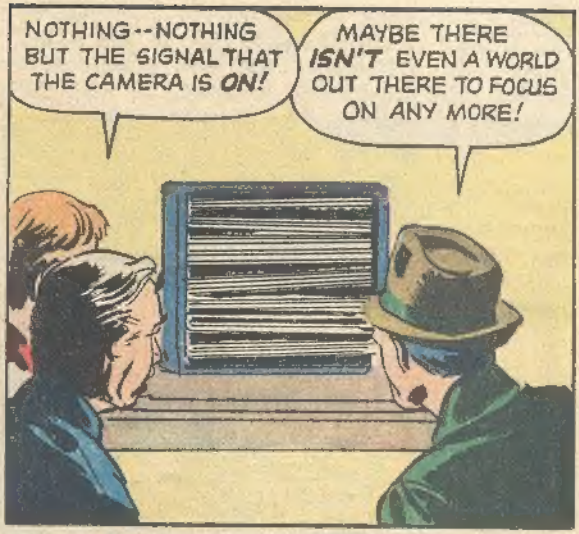
I CHANGED THE SETTINGS! THE EXPLOSION WENT OFF!

THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE SAFE! BUT I'M ***NOT*** LETTING YOU FLY OFF INTO TIME IN THAT MACHINE TO ***CHECK*** THE RESULTS!

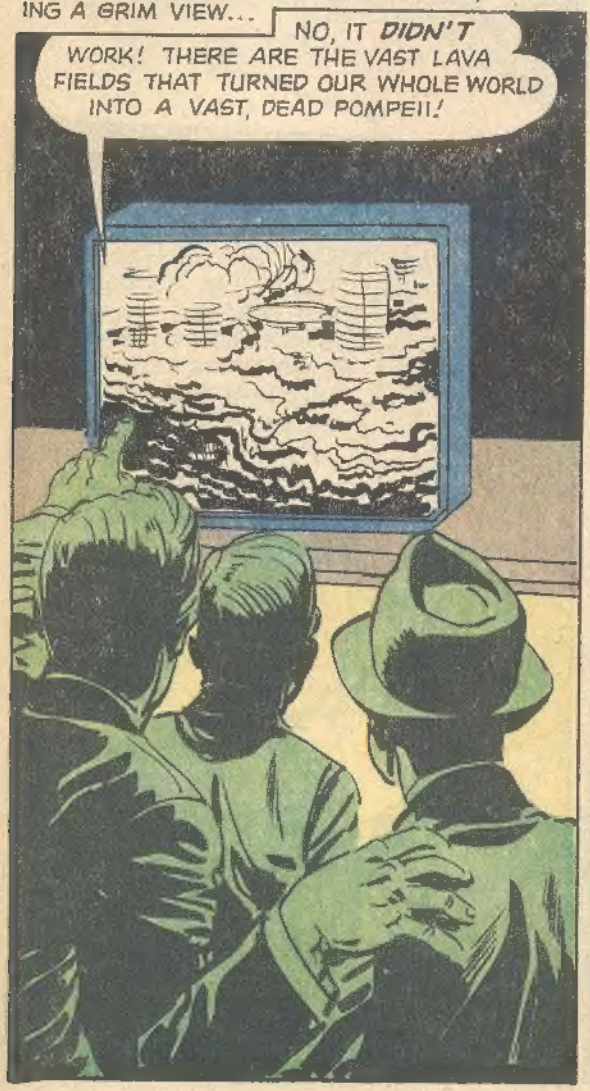
THERE'S NO NEED FOR MY GOING TO CHECK! I'M SETTING THE TIME DIAL FOR THE YEAR 3964! THE TELEVISION MONITOR'LL SHOW US ***IF*** MANKIND HAS BEEN SAVED!

THE TIME DIAL SET, THE MACHINE BEGINS TO ROCK GENTLY! FASTER AND FASTER IT VIBRATES, TILL IT VANISHES INTO FUTURE TIME...

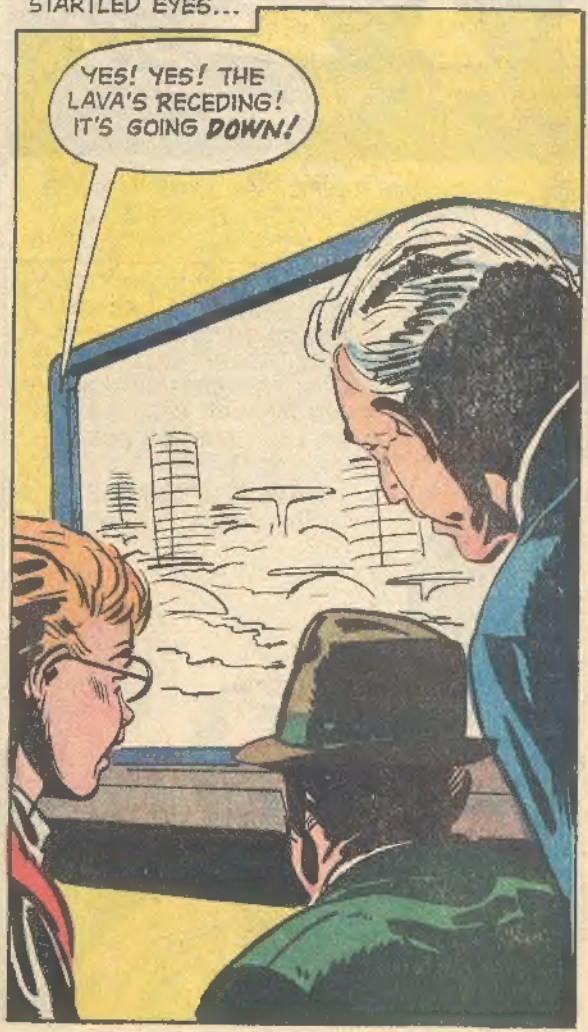




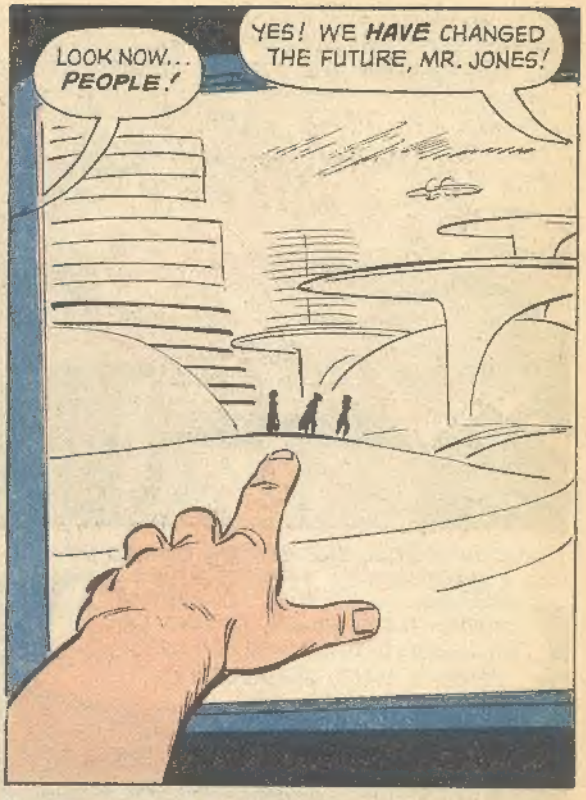
THEN, SUDDENLY, THE SCREEN CLEARS, REVEALING A GRIM VIEW...



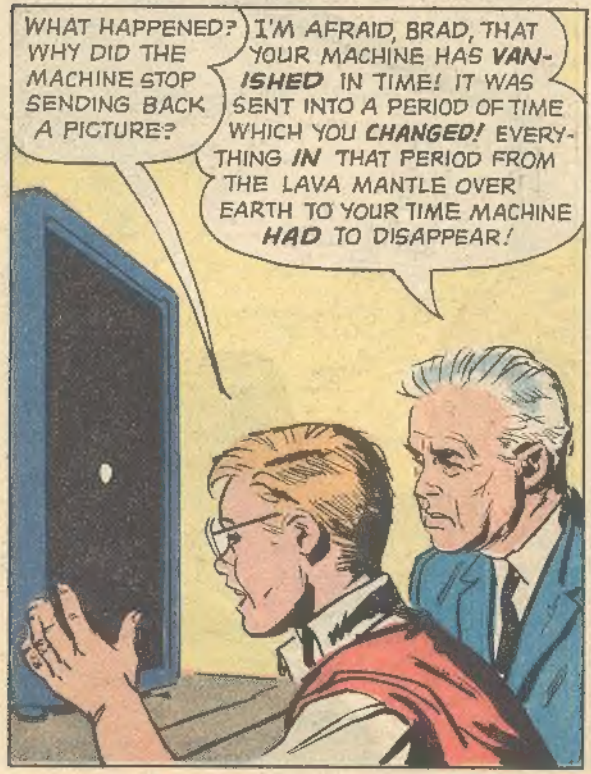
BUT, ALMOST IMPERCEPTIBLY AT FIRST, THERE IS A MOVEMENT ON THE SCREEN! A HOPEFUL CHANGE BEGINS TAKING PLACE BEFORE THEIR STARTLED EYES...



FASCINATED, THEY WATCH THE AMAZING SCENE, AS THE LAVA LOWERS AND OUT OF THE SILENT, BLACK PALL RISE BUILDINGS AND HOMES IN A WORLD OF THE DISTANCE AND ONCE DEAD FUTURE...



THEN, SUDDENLY, THERE IS A PINGING NOISE FROM THE MONITOR SCREEN! IT DARKENS, NARROWING TO A TINY, VANISHING SPOT OF LIGHT...


WHAT HAPPENED? WHY DID THE MACHINE STOP SENDING BACK A PICTURE?
I'M AFRAID, BRAD, THAT YOUR MACHINE HAS VANISHED IN TIME! IT WAS SENT INTO A PERIOD OF TIME WHICH YOU CHANGED! EVERYTHING IN THAT PERIOD FROM THE LAVA MANTLE OVER EARTH TO YOUR TIME MACHINE HAD TO DISAPPEAR!

B- BUT I MADE IT BY MISTAKE! I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO DO IT AGAIN!
WELL, SON, THE POWER COMPANY'LL BE GLAD OF THAT! BUT IT MORE THAN SERVED ITS PURPOSE! I DON'T KNOW OF ANY OTHER KID, WHO CAN CLAIM THAT HE SAVED MANKIND!
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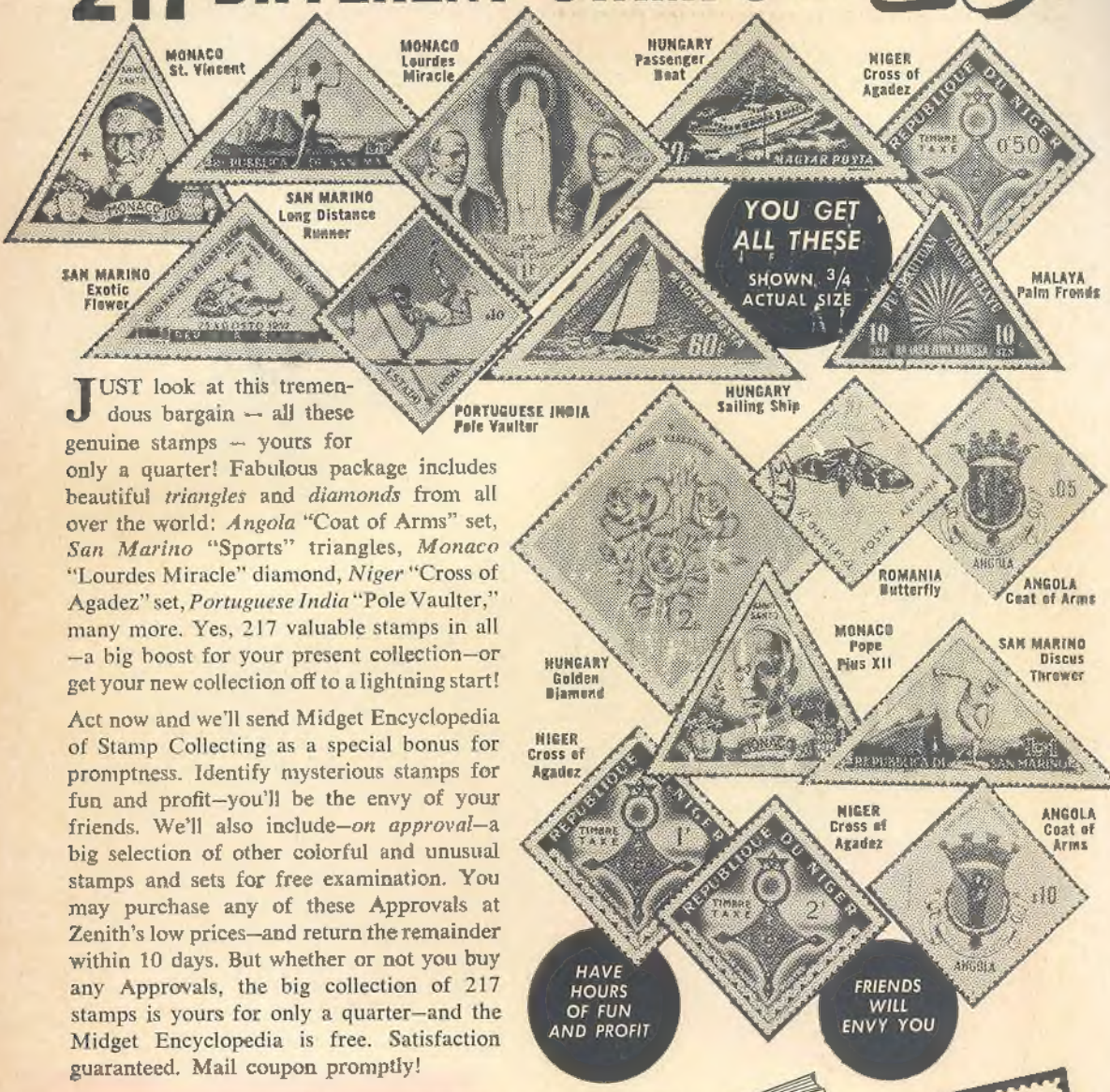
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